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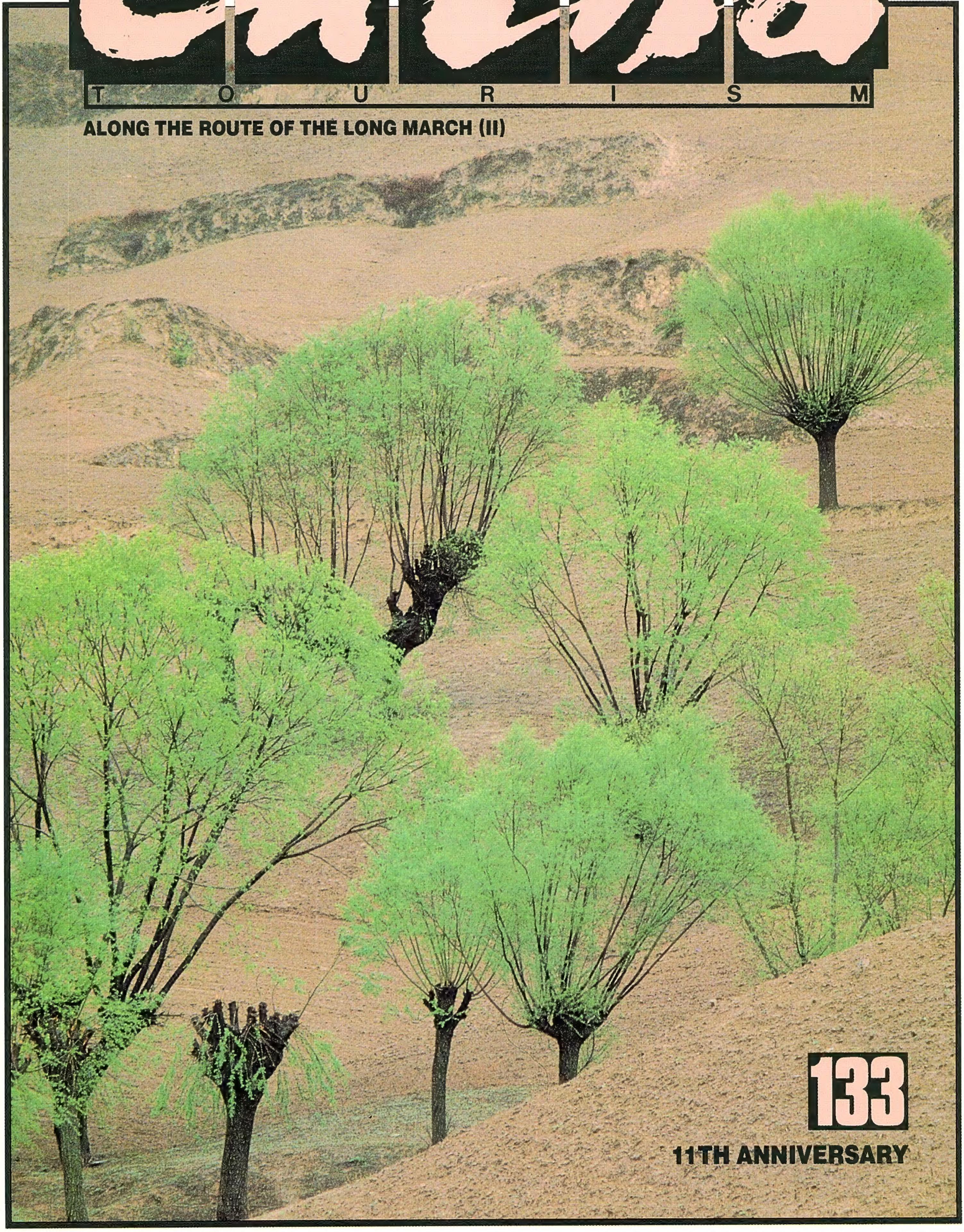
ALONG THE ROUTE OF THE LONG MARCH (II)



133

11TH ANNIVERSARY

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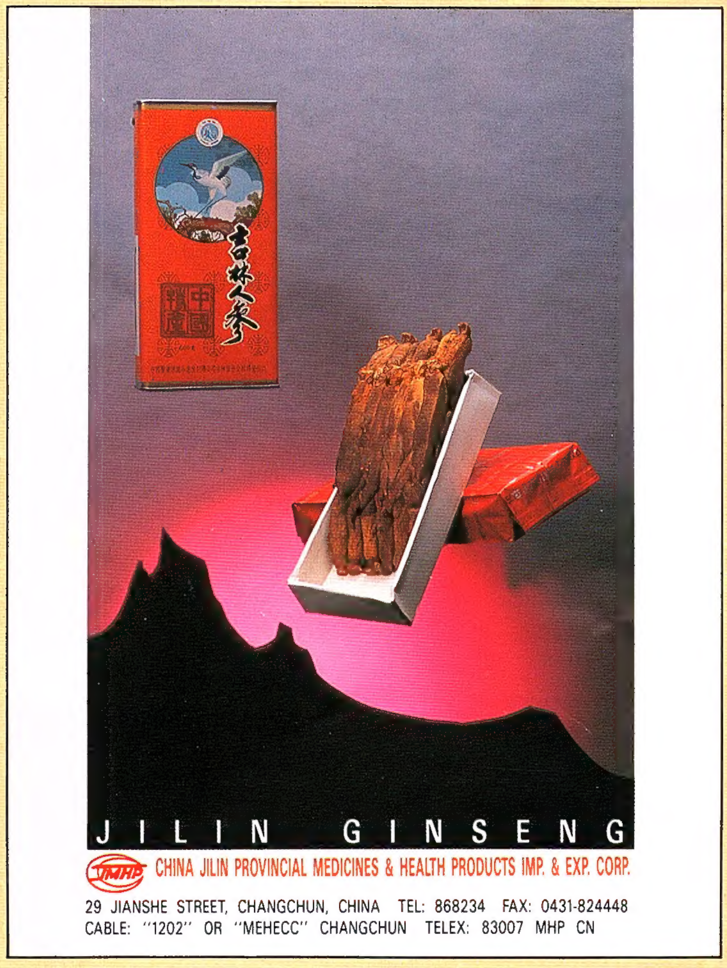
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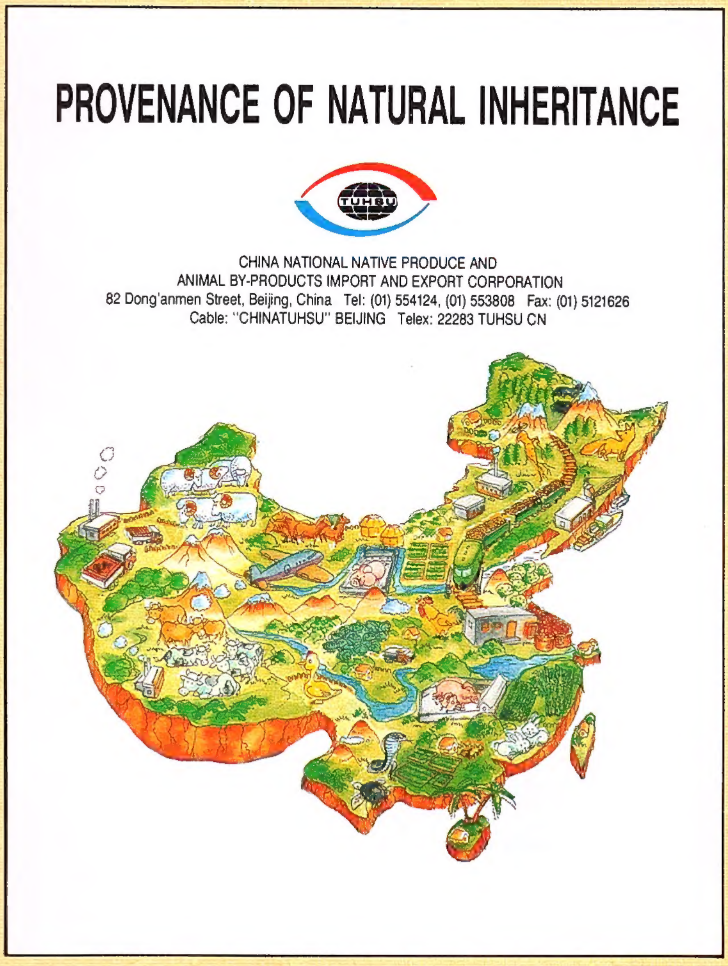
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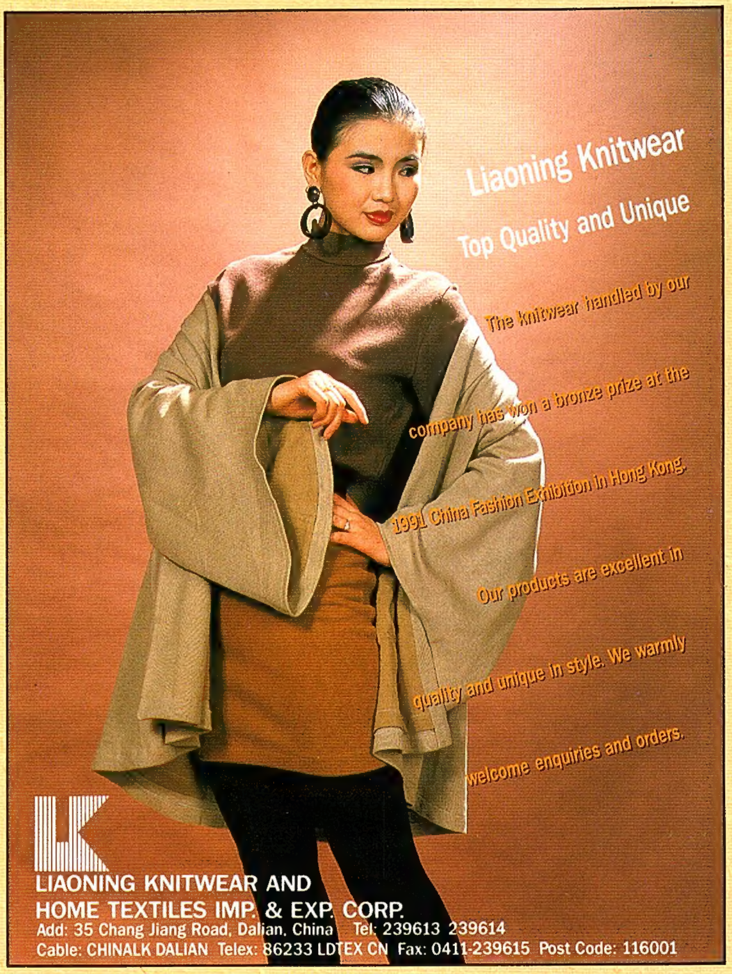

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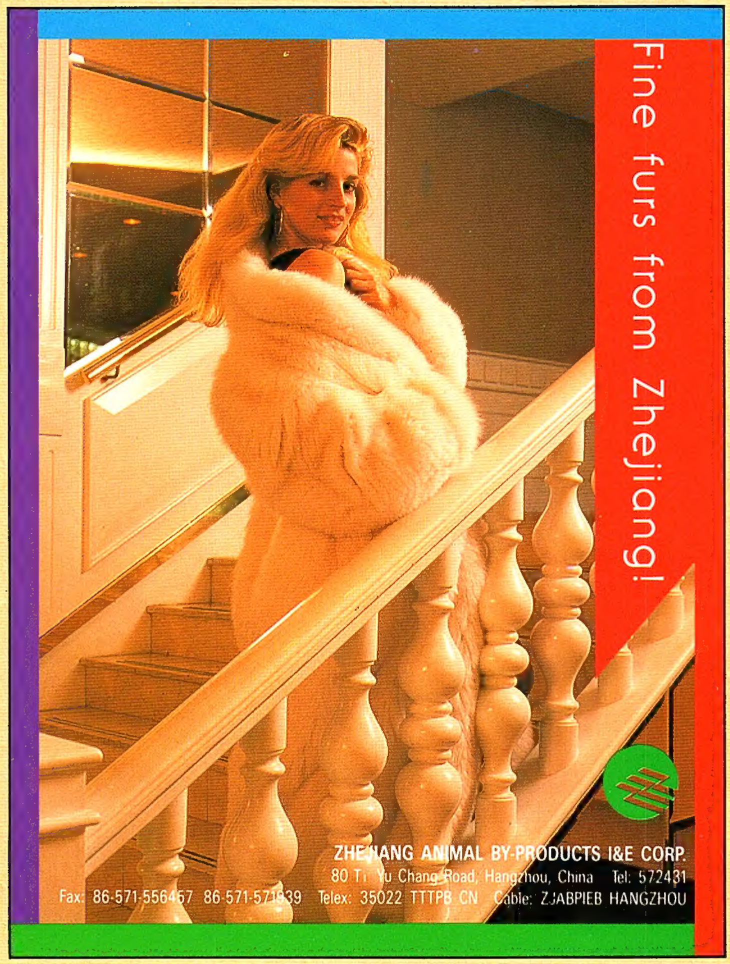
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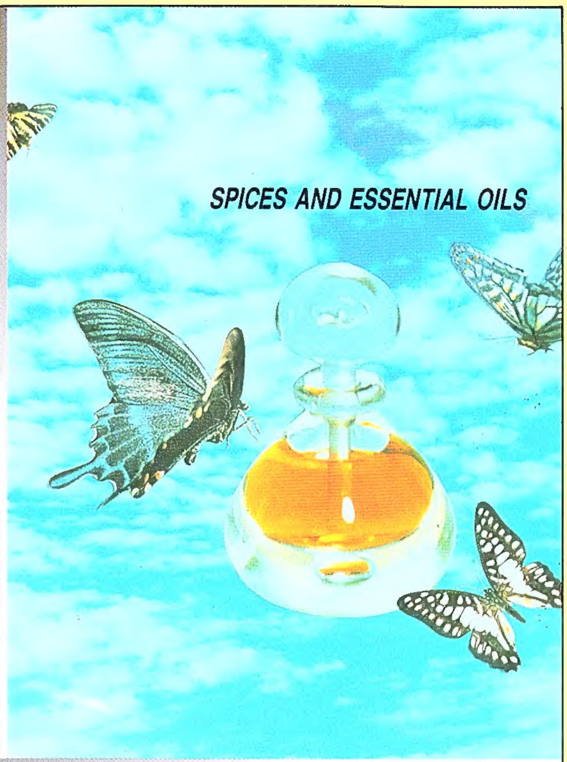

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POSTCODE: 310006
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BLIC handles more than 20 categories of products with nearly 200 varieties, such as general merchandise, leather shoes, leather products, suitcases, sports and tourist goods, musical instruments, stationery and office appliances, papers, toys, cloth shoes and rubber shoes, building materials and household electrical appliances. Over 20 varieties of products, including "HSINGHAI" brand violins, "YU-I" brand and "GOLD FISH" brand tissue paper, and "DRAGON-FLY" brand badminton shoes, are the winners of the title Famous and Good Quality Products granted by the State or Beijing Municipality. These products sell well in Europe and Southeast Asian countries.

BLIC adopts various modes of management, such as processing operation, compensation trade, joint ventures and cooperative enterprises, export on commission, transportation on commission, import and sale on consignment.

Foreign friends are cordially welcome to set up business relations with BLIC.

Beijing Light Industrial Products
Import & Export Corp.
76 West Chang'an Ave., Beijing, China
Postal Code: 100031
Tel: 654531, 655906, 6016304
Fax: 657029, 6016303
Telex: 22142 LITBJ CN
Cable: "INDUSPK" Beijing
General Manager: Cui Shulin
Deputy General Managers:
Wang Yaming, Huang Fucai,
Li Yuezhen, Xu Xiang,
Wang Shusheng
Assistant General Managers:
Liu Jingyao, Wang Xiushan

Main export items: Heavy duty and mining machines, complete plants, electronic products, bearings and components, household electric appliances and electric products, autos and their spare parts, patent and know-how, general-purpose machinery, instruments and meters, machine tools and tools, agricultural machinery and machinery for processing farm products or side-line products.

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Add: 131 Jiefang Rd., Hangzhou, China Cable: "EQUIMPEX" HANGZHOU Fax: 86-571-721050, 86-571-721045
Tel. of Manager & Administrative offices: 721002, 770990, 770986 Telex: 351006 CMECZ CN Post Code: 310009

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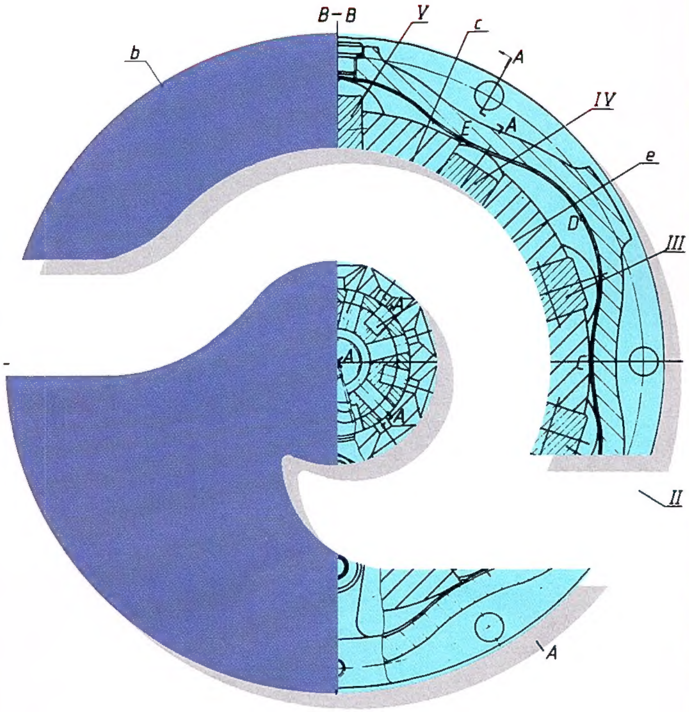

Business Scope:
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General Manager: Wu Hongchuan
Deputy Managers: Bai Jinliang, Tang Wei, Zhang Yuyi
Add: 257 Baixia Road, Nanjing, China
Tel: 025-405630 Telex: 34111 JMCNJ CN
Fax: 025-413450 Cable: "MACHIMPEX" Nanjing
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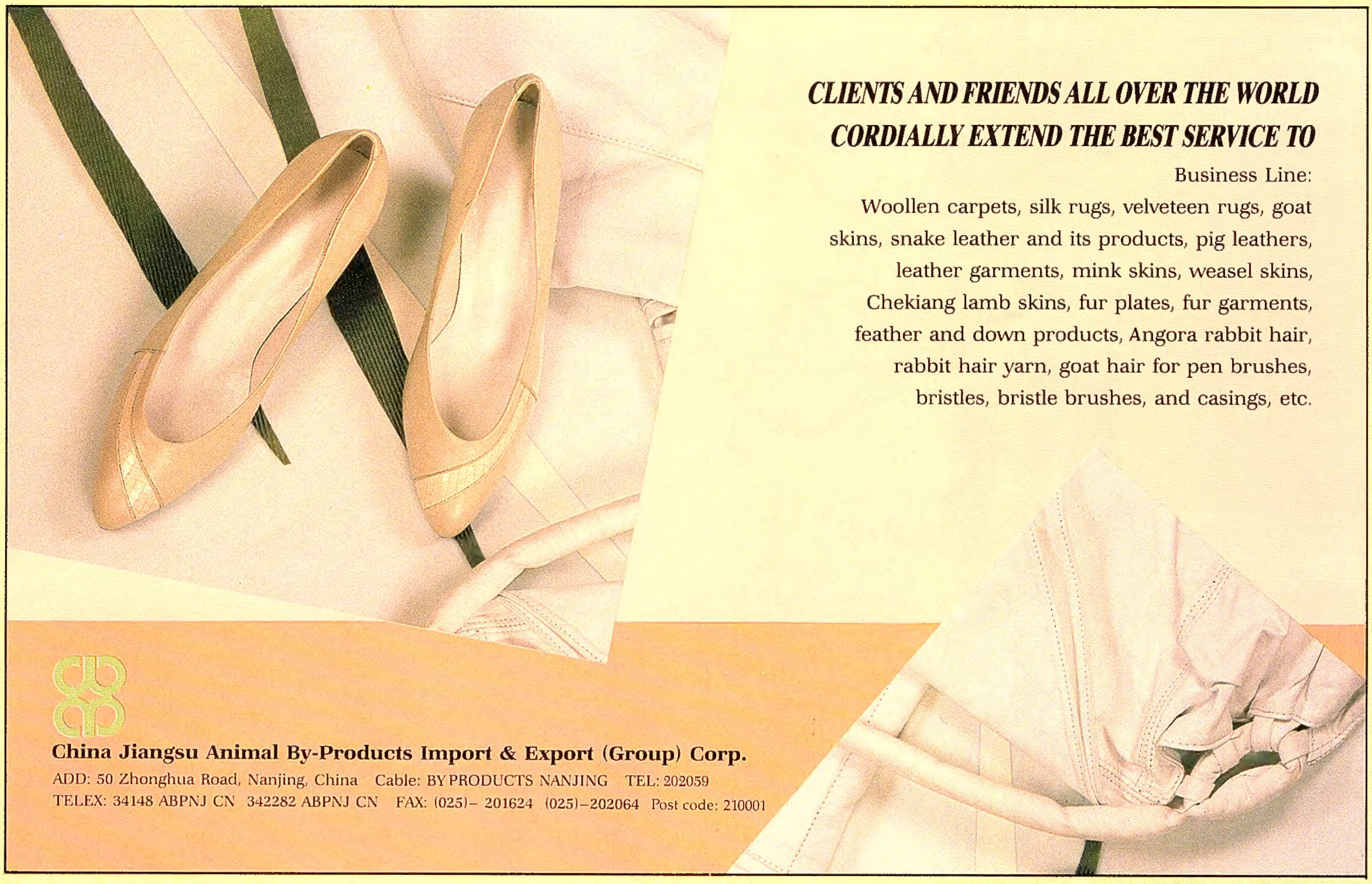

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8-9/F, 576 Beijing Road, Kunming, Yunnan, China
Tel: 25485, 27239, 22983, 29746 Cable: YIEPORT KUNMING
Telex: 64039 YPIEC CN Fax: 0871-34451

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IMPORT & EXPORT (GROUP) CORP.
Building No. 27, 1 Xiaoying
Rd. E., Nanjing, China
Tel: 642468 406967
Telex: 34114 MIMNJ CN,
34080 MIMNJ CN,
Fax: 086-025-408127

Ours is a state-owned enterprise under the direct administration of the Shantou Special Economic Zone. It enjoys rights to deal directly in import and export.

Our Co. insists on combining import/export with industry and technology trades developing into an export-facing enterprise in line with our purpose of reputation first, carrying out far and near overseas trades, to join with the traders at home and abroad in investment, with the ways of supplied materials, designs, samples and compensation trade to process and production, etc.

Our subsidiary: the state-owned Duty-Free (foreign currency) Department Store in Shantou SEZ is one of the only five duty-free department stores in the whole country authorized by the central.

Our co. mainly deals in household electrical appliances, communication materials and equipments, hardware products, electronic products, electric products of categories II or III. Knit and textile fabrics, garments, pottery and porcelain, plastic products, raw and auxiliary, daily merchandises, cereals and oil, foodstuffs, traditional Chinese and Western medicines, recreation and sport merchandises, handicraft articles, native products, animal by-products, etc.

Add.: N/W side of the Comprehensive
Economy Building, Shantou SEZ.,
Guangdong, China
Tel.: 263126 262389
Fax: 261372
Cable: 5180

Shantou Special Economic Zone
Duty-Free Commodity Enterprises General Co.

Shantou SEZ State-Owned Foreign
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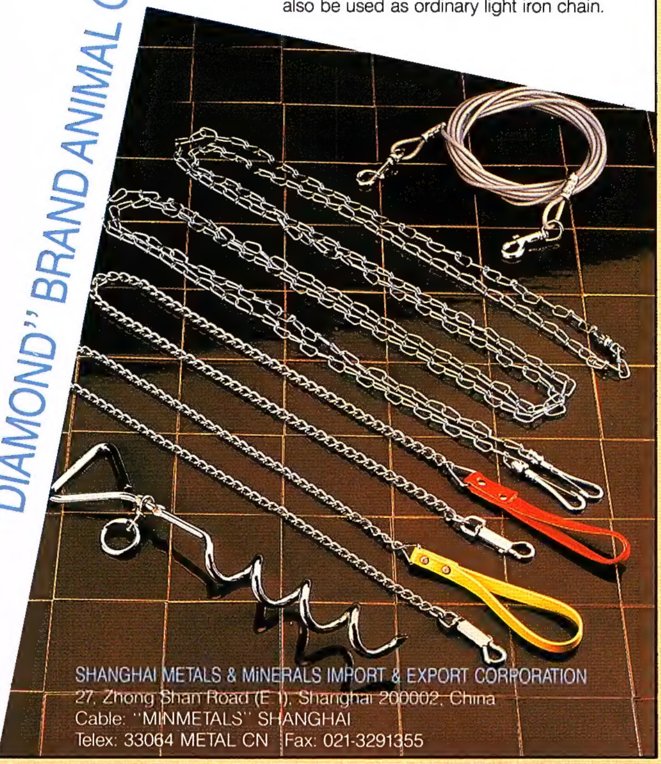
M.S. Animal Chain exported by this Corporation is made of selected wire rod, haivng superior quality and fine workmanship. It is chiefly used for leading and restraining domestic animals. It may also be used as ordinary light iron chain.



SHANGHAI METALS & MINERALS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION
27, Zhong Shan Road (E 1), Shanghai 200002, China
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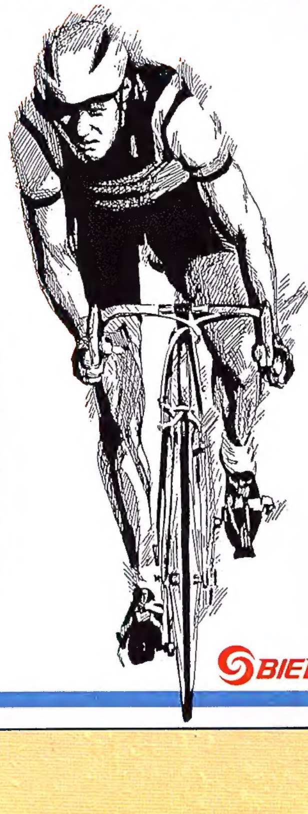

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TEL: 5458706
FAX: 86-21-5458814

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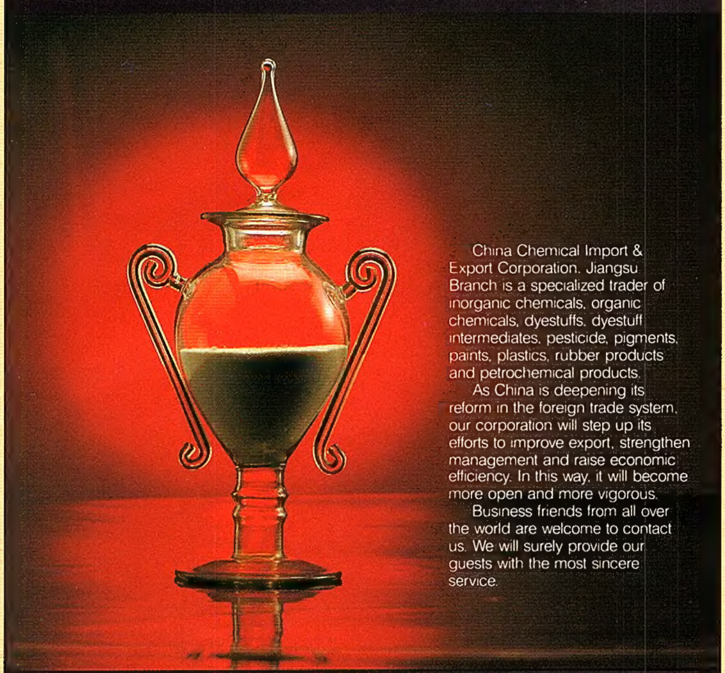
With natural silk and spun silk as the main material, Sichuan silk carpets are exquisitely hand woven from traditional methods. Dyed fast, bright and clean, pliable and tough, soft and springy, they are classified into two categories, i.e. carpets and hanging tapestry. Available for customers' choice is a complete range of variety with complete specifications.

Sichuan carpets are characterized by their rich array of designs. Not only available are the traditional Beijing style, artistic style, floral patterns, landscape patterns, patterns of Dunhuang painting, and Persian style, but also the newly designed patterns which are unique in their artistic styles and oriental taste.

Sichuan is noted for its long history in the production of silk carpets. Formerly exported by Shanghai under the brand name of "Pine and Crane", Sichuan silk carpets are now directly exported by SICHUAN ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS IMP. & EXP. CORP.

Sichuan Silk Carpet

China National Chemicals Import & Export Corporation Jiangsu Branch



China Chemical Import & Export Corporation, Jiangsu Branch is a specialized trader of inorganic chemicals, organic chemicals, dyestuffs, dyestuff intermediates, pesticide, pigments, paints, plastics, rubber products and petrochemical products.

As China is deepening its reform in the foreign trade system, our corporation will step up its efforts to improve export, strengthen management and raise economic efficiency. In this way, it will become more open and more vigorous.

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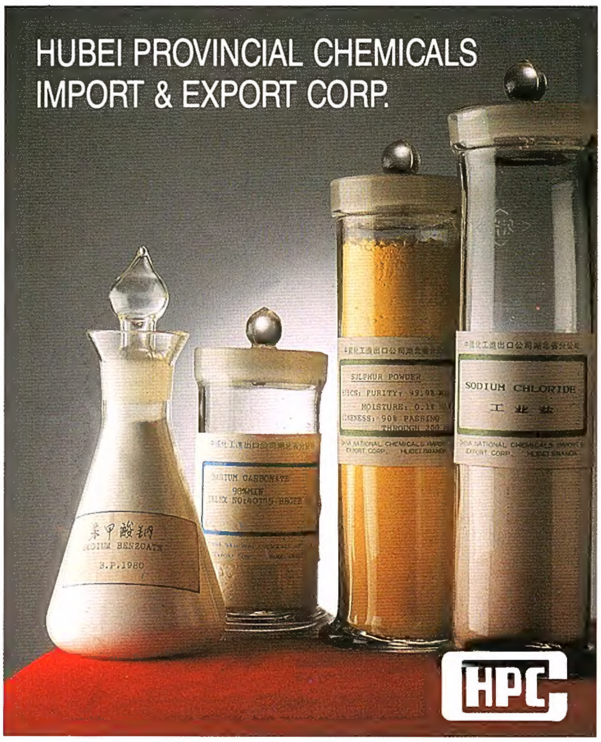

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TLX: 95235 JXNTP CN CABLE: "JXNT" NANCHANG

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Add: Erligou, Xijiao, Beijing, China
Telex: 222732 CHEMI CN
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Zhejiang Province, with its capital Hangzhou, is China's main silk-producing base, with an annual raw silk output of more than 100000 tons, plus piece goods of over 200 million metres. Zhejiang Silk Import & Export Corporation, represents some 300 enterprises, with a workforce of over 100000, engaged in every aspect of silk production, from cocoon cultivation to spinning and weaving. The corporation has developed firm trading relationships with more than 100 regions, and encourages economic and technical co-operation of every description, to mutual advantage. Your enquiry is most warmly welcomed.

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Add: 55, Tiyuchang Road, Hangzhou, China Tel: 554249-316, 317 Cable: ZJSILK HANGZHOU Telex: 35016 TCZSB CN Fax: 573191, 558411

EDITORIAL

Along the Route of the Long March (II)

In our last issue, CHINA TOUIRSM travelled together with our readers along the route of the Long March. In this issue, we continue this journey. This month, Hong Kong China Tourism Press, the publisher of CHINA TOURISM, celebrates a long march of our own, marking the eleventh anniversary of this magazine's publication. To celebrate, for a limited time, we are offering subscriptions at twenty per cent discount, and two free CHINA TOURISM magazine binders. See our advertisement elsewhere for more details.

During these eleven years, our magazine has borne withness to the opening of China to the outside world. In a very real sense we believe that CHINA TOURISM has blazed a trail through this opening by bringing the grandeur of China's civilization, the splendour of her landscapes and the lively variety of her peoples much closer to the rest of the world.

Our eleventh aniversary issue provides you with a chance to discover the magnificent and unspoiled environment for which the provinces of Sichuan, Gansu, Shaanxi and Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region are renowned. During our journey, you have a chance to observe the relatively plain lifestyles that the natives of these areas continue to maintain as well as some ancient traditional customs and rituals which continue to be practised to this day.

Among the sights and sounds presented are the grand celebration of the Lantern Festival as performed by the Yi minority, and the traditional marriage dance ceremony of the Qiang minority. The doors of a lamasary, or a Tibetan monastery, are opened. We also offer you a glimpse of the largest stone carving of a Buddhist icon in China south of the Yangtse River.

This issue concludes our two part series following the route of the Long March; however, CHINA TOURISM's fondest hope is that you continue to journey together with us and discover more of China for many years to come.

CONTENTS

12 CELEBRATION IN PHOTOGRAPHS To mark the eleventh anniversary of CHINA TOURISM, we present eleven photographs for the added enjoyment of our readers.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Along the Route of the Long March (II)

34 Sichuan: The High Mountains and Deep Valleys of the Yi, Tibetan and Qiang Peoples In this article, we visit the minority peoples of Sichuan's Liangshan Mountains.

56 Gansu: Unique Tibetan Customs Here, we look at some of the more interesting facets of one of the world's most fascinating peoples.

62 Ningxia: Varied Landform, Colourful Moslem Customs The area inhabited by the Hui (Moslem) people is explored.

66 Shaanxi: Old Traditions of the Han Nationality on the Loess Land A journey to the home of 40 million cave house dwellers.

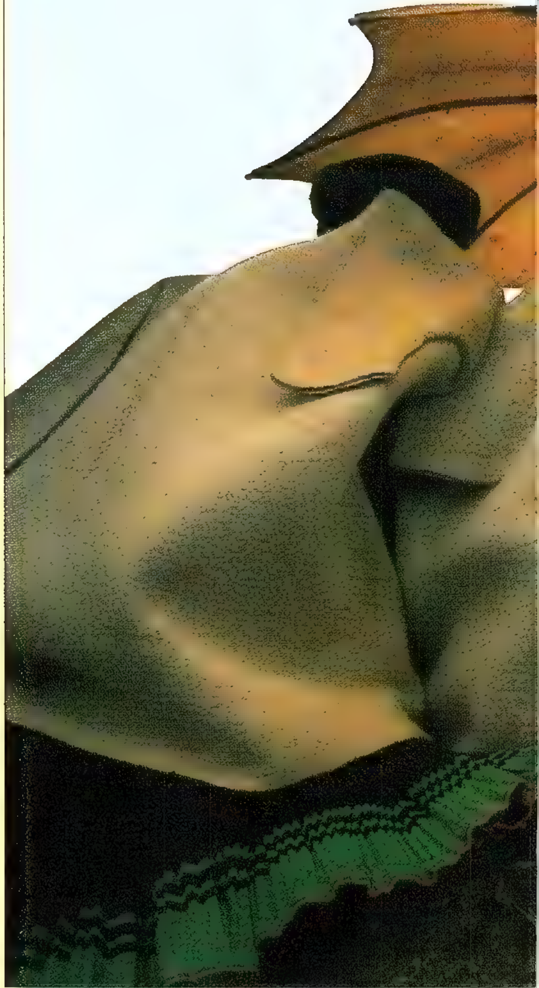


Photo by Zhong Dakun

No. 133 July 1991

AROUND AND ABOUT CHINA

81 **Baoshan Monastery's Carvings in Stone** This is a celebrated Buddhist shrine with a long history of nearly 1,300 years.

84 **Tibetan Folk Painting in Qinghai's Huangzhong** A contemporary fusion of older folk arts.

87 **Suzhou Street in the Summer Palace in Beijing** A restoration based on Qing Dynasty documents.

REGULAR FEATURES

91 **EXECUTIVE JOTTINGS** Hotels in the Provinces Along the Route of the Long March

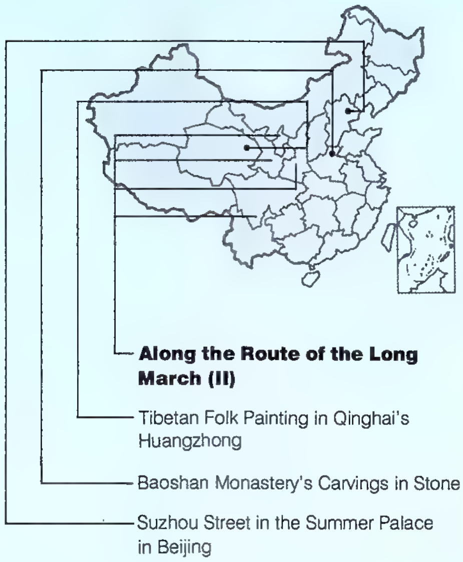
94 **TRAVELLERS' CORNER** A One Day Trip to Cui Heng

96 **TRAVEL NOTES**

101 **NEWS**

102 **NEXT ISSUE**

Front Cover: When spring comes, the willows on the loess plateau are full of life ***(by Hu Wugong)***.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Tibetan Folk Painting in Qinghai's Huangzhong
Baoshan Monastery's Carvings in Stone
Suzhou Street in the Summer Palace in Beijing

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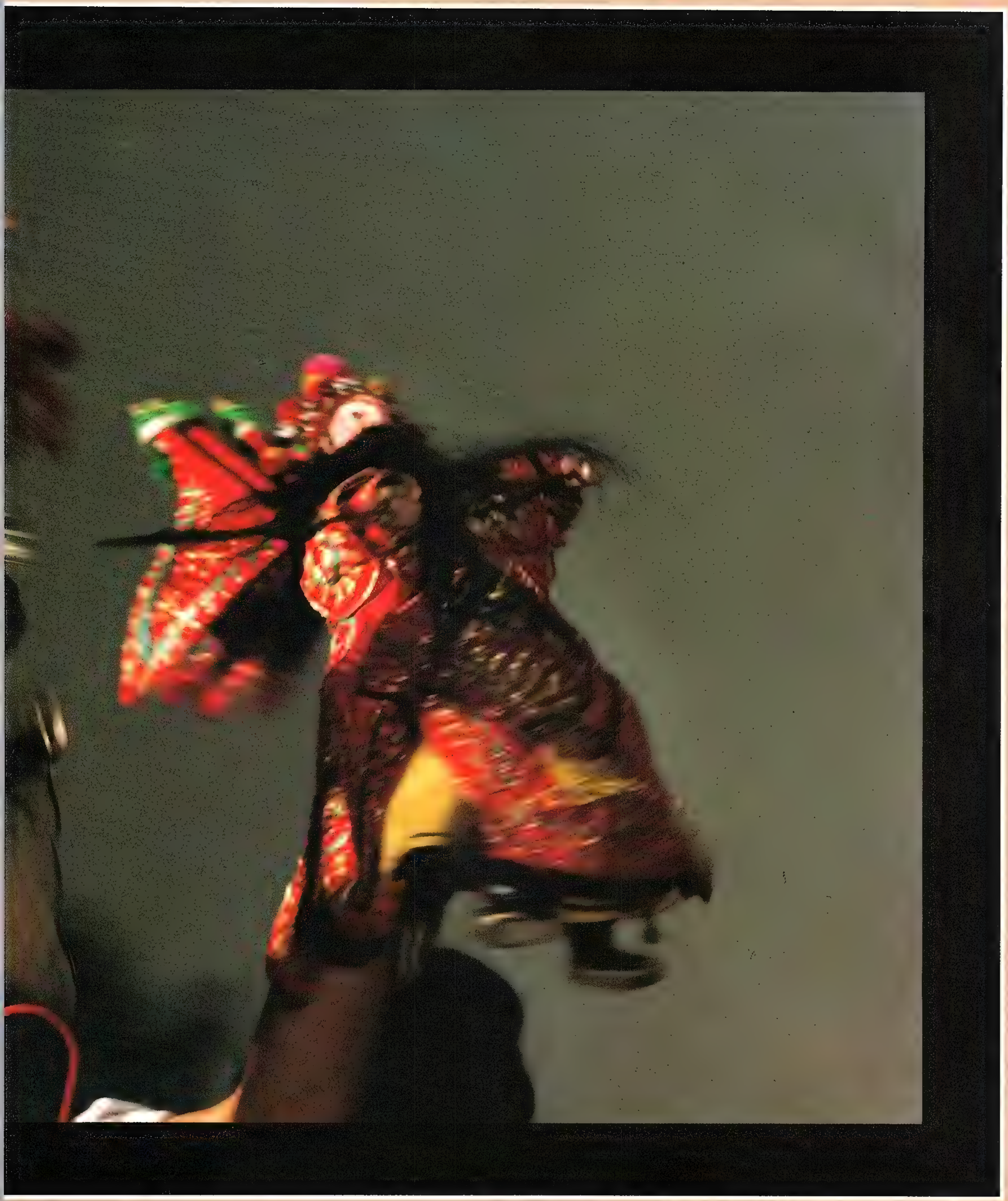
Celebration in Photographs

Our photographers have found countless interesting subjects for their cameras in the vast land of China. From various angles and different perspectives, they have taken innumerable photos of its mountains and rivers, its people and their customs and habits. To mark the 11th anniversary of CHINA TOURISM, we have selected eleven of these pictures for the enjoyment of our readers.

木偶戲

Quanzhou is known for its puppet shows. The movements of the two puppet

are full of vitality. The ample space is left on the upper right corner for th



cuffling with each other replicate those of real actors giving a similar performance on the stage. The puppets, as manipulated by the artist,

novements of the puppets. *(Quanzhou, Fujian/Photo by Tchan Fou-li)*

雲

On the Inner Mongolian Plateau, changes in the weather in summer are signalled by meteorological phenomena. When one se

(fort-like) clouds are rarely seen. The clouds take up most of the space with the horizon lying near the bottom. Heaven, earth a

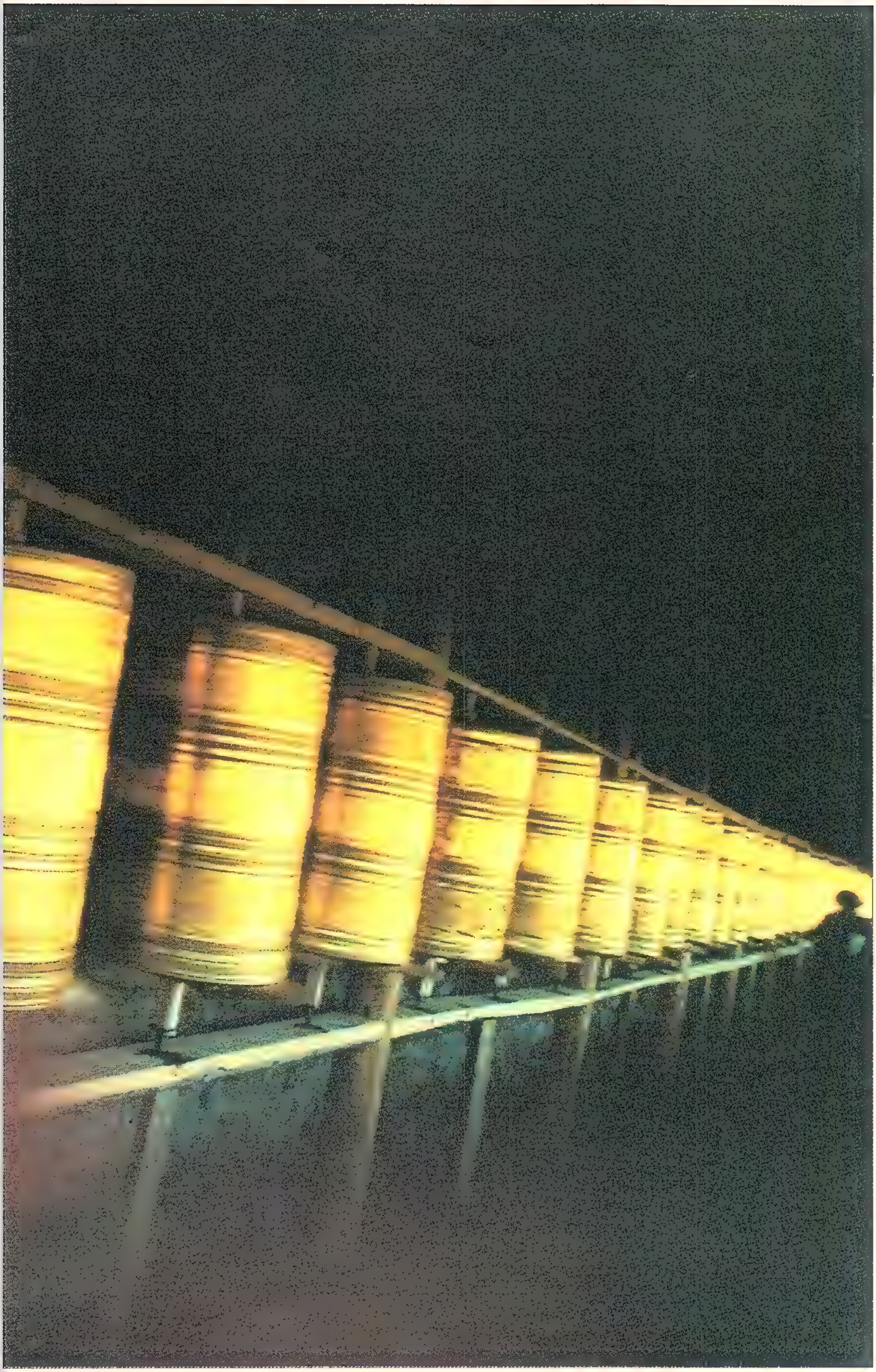
ı the clear sky clouds in the shape of a high rising fort, one can be certain that there will soon be a drastic change in the weather. The "paotai"

ıan are linked by the only beam of sunlight which shines on the yurts at the horizon. ***(Inner Mongolia/Photo by Liu Changsuo)***

In the dim corridor of Labrang Temple in Gansu Province, devout Buddhists are turning the Wheel of Buddhist Doctrine with great fervour.

the dimness of the corridor and the brightness of the row of bronze wheels. Looking at the picture, one seems to have the illusion that the

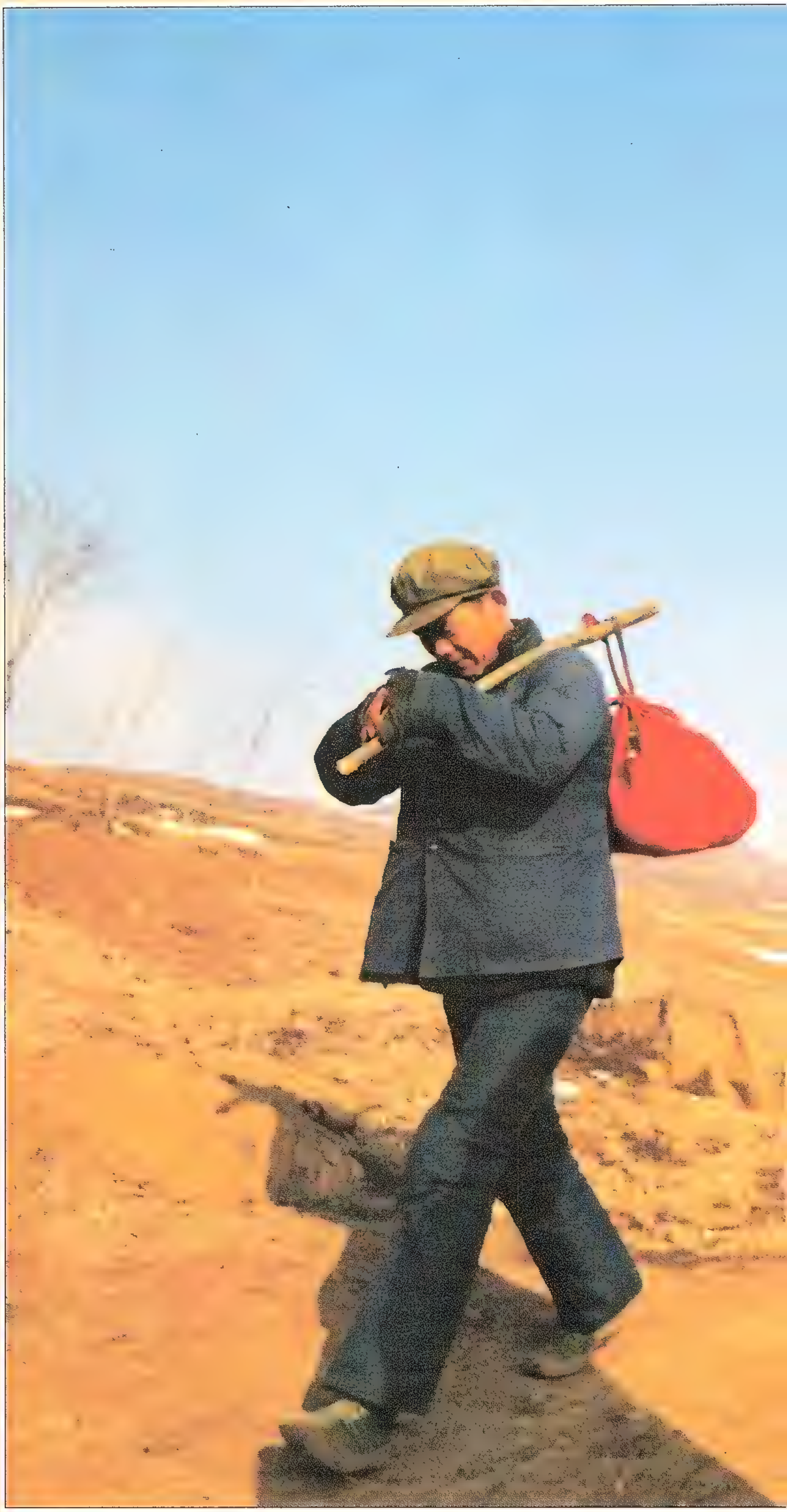
轉經輪



Vhile doing so, they repeatedly pray to Buddha to grant them good transmigration. There is a contrast between

vheels are luminescant. ***(Gansu/Photo by Xu Jiashu)***

巧遇



It is early winter in Shandong Province's Yimeng Mountain area. Two farmers, each dressed
some worries on their mind. This is a very common scene yet the photographer astutely
man. ***(Shandong/Photo by Li Zhaojun)***

in deep colours and carrying on their backs a bundle wrapped in red cloth, brush past each other and walk on, seemingly with the burden of

captures the dramatic contrast between the two — the heavy and slow movements of the old woman and the light and hurried steps of the

This is a winter scene of open country in Shaanxi Province. The tree whose branches were cut before winter set in is called "bareheade

Deshui)

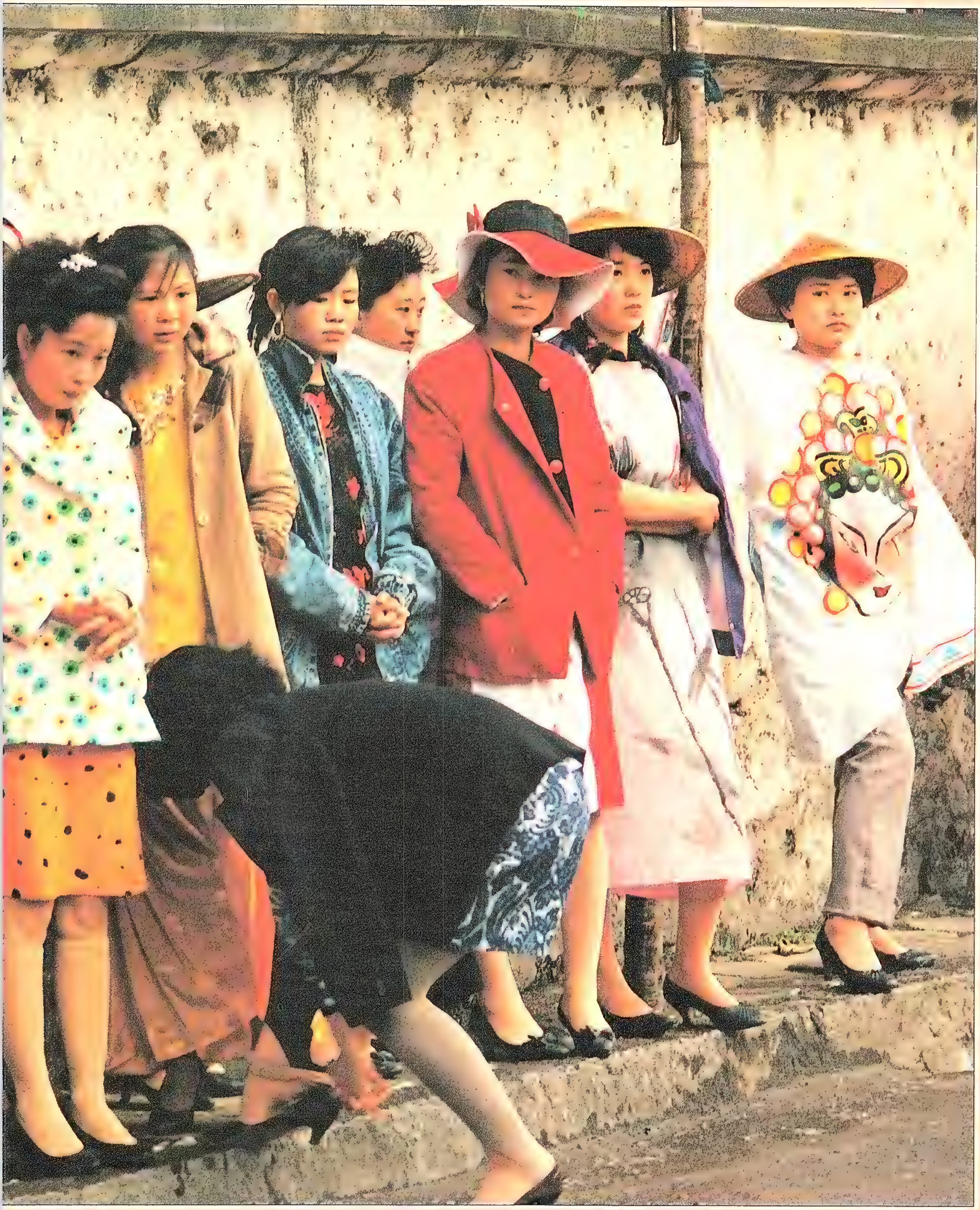
willow". Its stark presence adds to the loneliness permeating the bleak open country. ***(Shaanxi/Photo by Yu***

冬韻

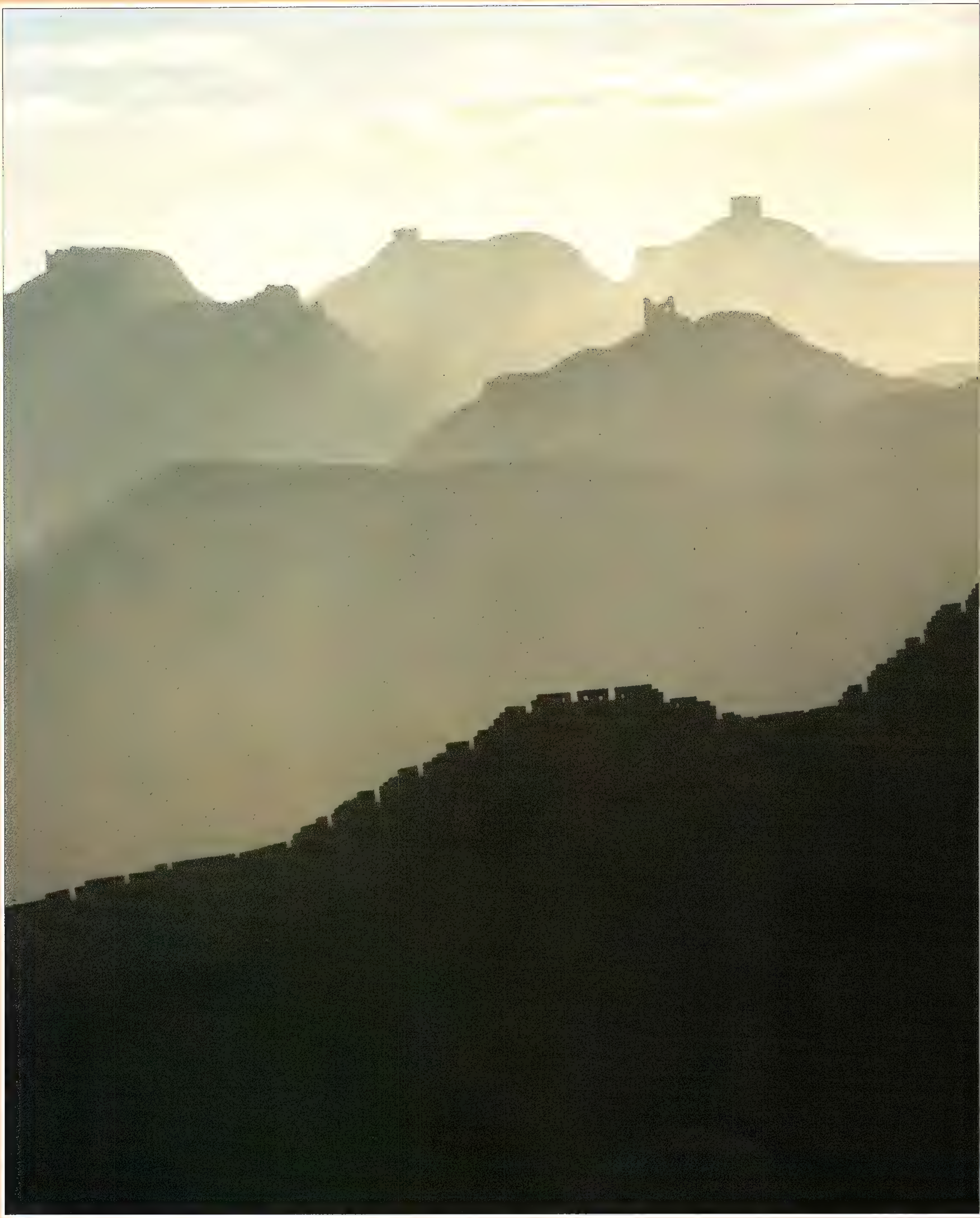
鄉村模特兒

The large number of tourists from home and abroad have brought to Dali the veneer of modernization

(Dali, Yunnan/Photo by Peng Tianhai)



This picture shows one aspect of this craze. The bright colours of the model's dress are in contrast to the grey mottled wall in the background.



The incomparable Great Wall magnificiently meanders through the Jinshan Range in Hebei Province and here is veiled by morning mist. T

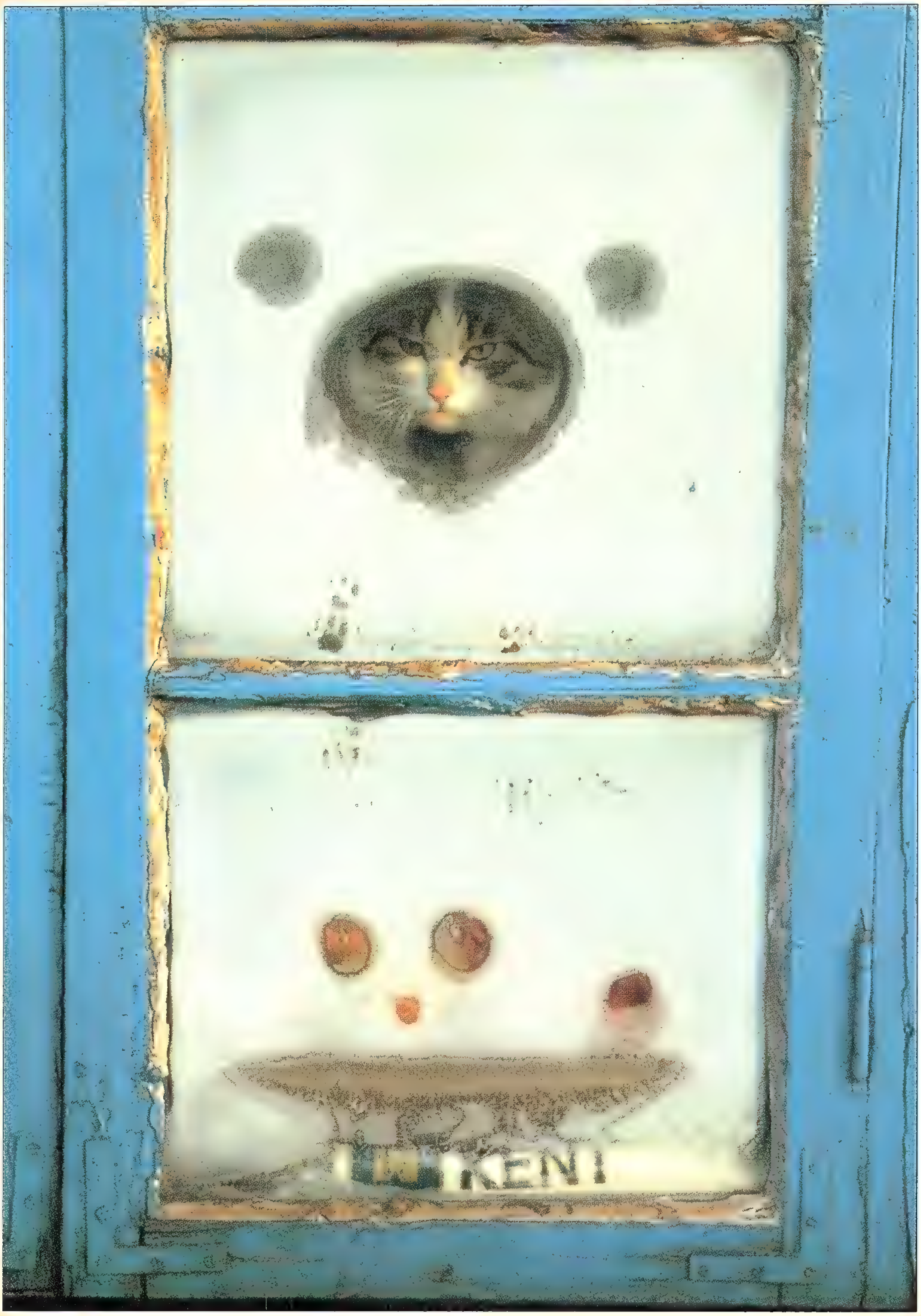
serenity. The foggy silhouettes of the mountain range appear as a natural defence amplifying the original protective purpose of the Great Wal

霧罩雄關

radation of lush colours in this picture presents a scene depicting timeless

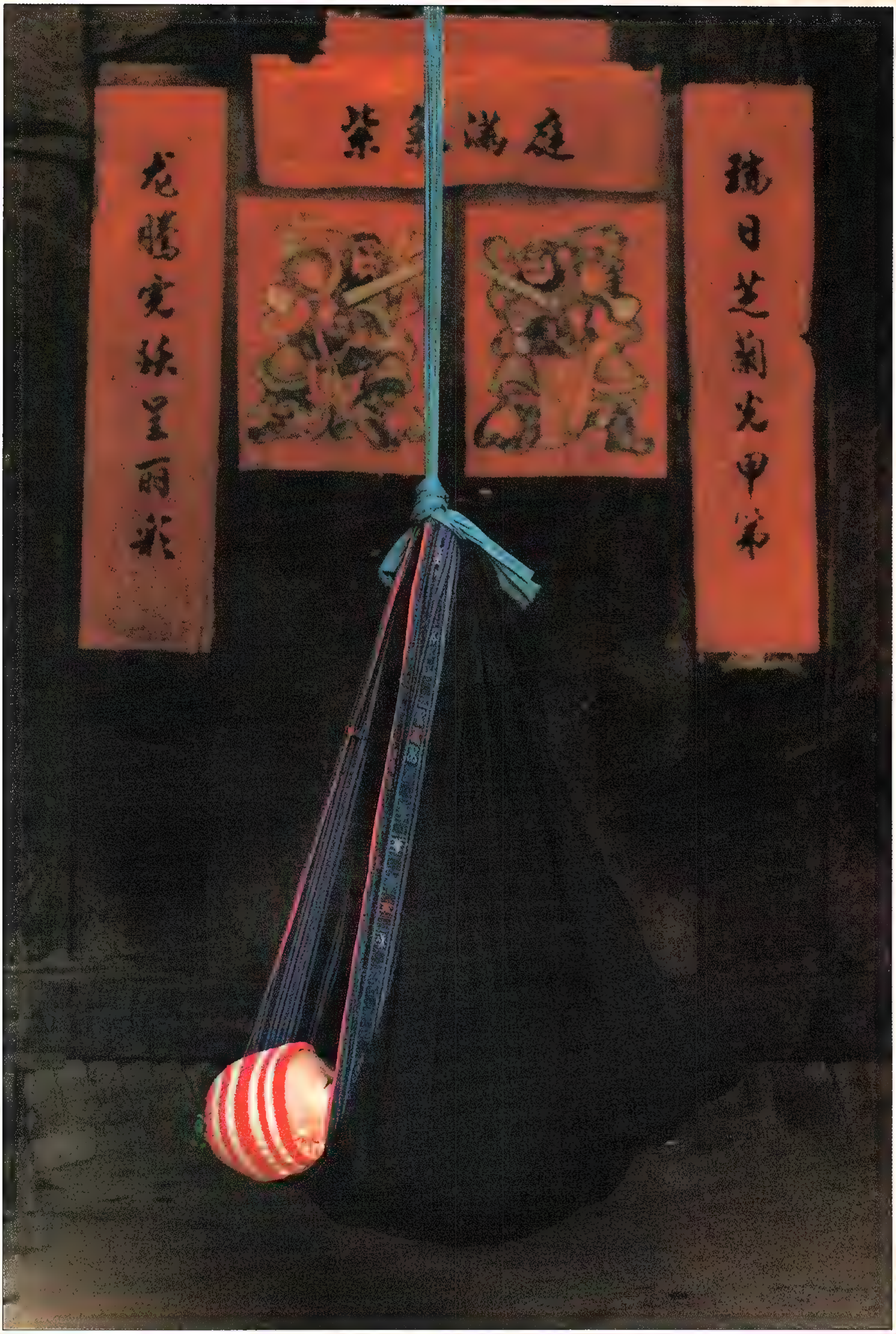
ebei/Photo by Li Yingjie)

東北小景



The outskirts of Harbin appear to be devoid of activity as if frozen by the extreme chill of winter as people are confined to their houses, warming themselves by their hearth fires. The kitten, curious, presses its nose on the windowpane to watch the winter wonderland outside. The warmth of its breath and emanating from its ears has melted the frost and formed a silhouette on the window not unlike a Mickey Mouse silhouette. ***(Heilongjiang/ Photo by Ma Yixing)***

酣睡



Women of the Li nationality in Hainan often put their babies in a sort of "hammock" — a hanging crib — when they are working. In this photo, the "hammock" and the baby form the centre with the Door Gods looming overhead. The baby's lovely head is shown in a brighter colour which focuses attention on it.

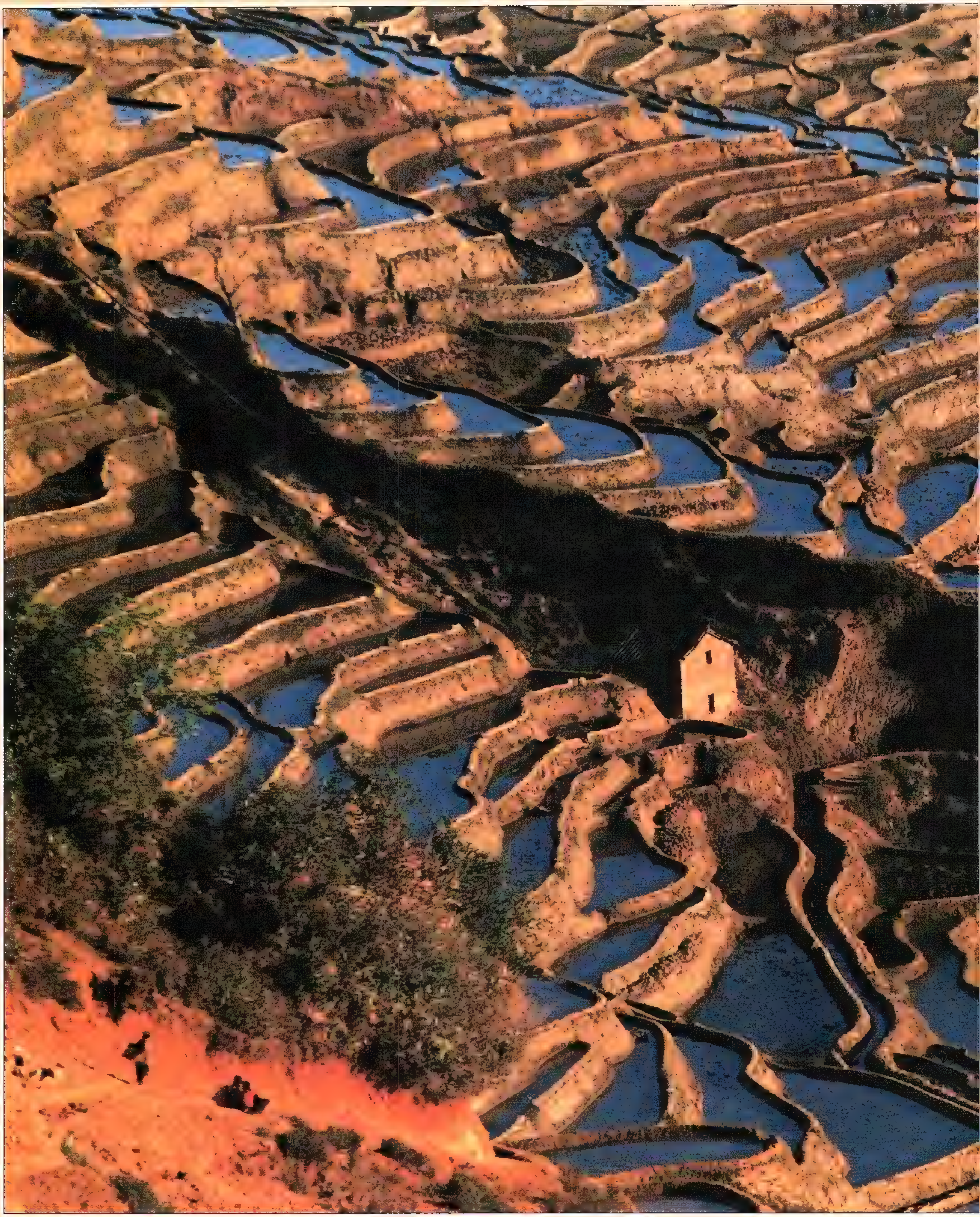
(Hainan/Photo by Lin Yongle)

打腰鼓

The County of Ansai in Northern Shaanxi Province celebrates the Spring Festival every year with the beating of waist drums

are the static spectators dressed in multi-colour. ***(Shaanxi/Photo by Wang Yong)***

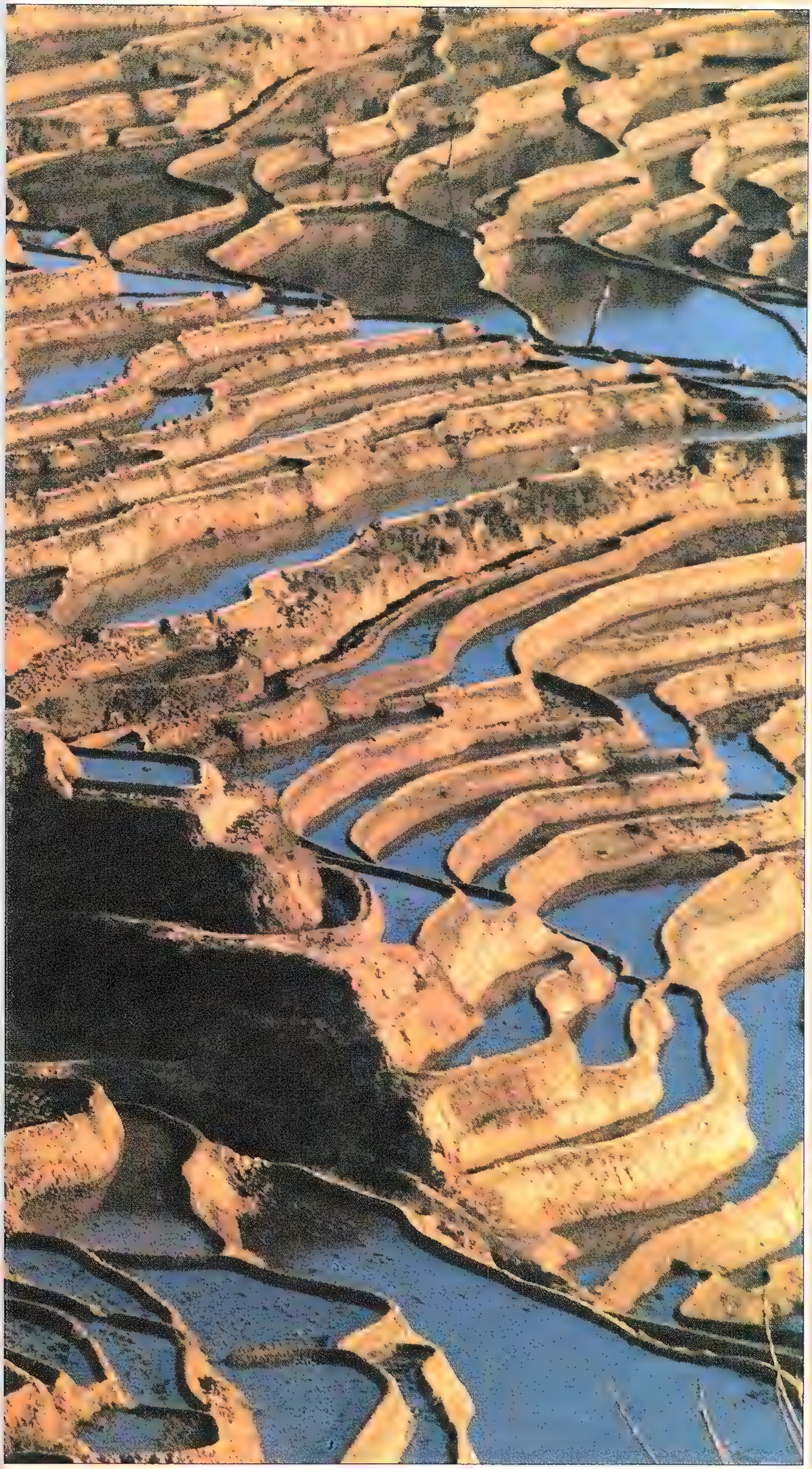
Members of the participating teams beat the drums in unison while dancing. In contrast to their motion and the white colour of their clothing



These terraced fields at Honghe County, Yunnan Province, resemble the patterns of a lady's garment if one looks at them from above. At this

colours shows up even more sharply the segmentation of the fields. The hut in the centre brings an element of humanity to the whole picture

梯田



time of the day, the reflection of the sky in the water is bluer than usual. The contrast in the

(Yunnan/Photo by Shen Shaoxiong) **Translated by Anne Yan**

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ALONG THE ROUTE OF THE
LONG MARCH

Sichuan

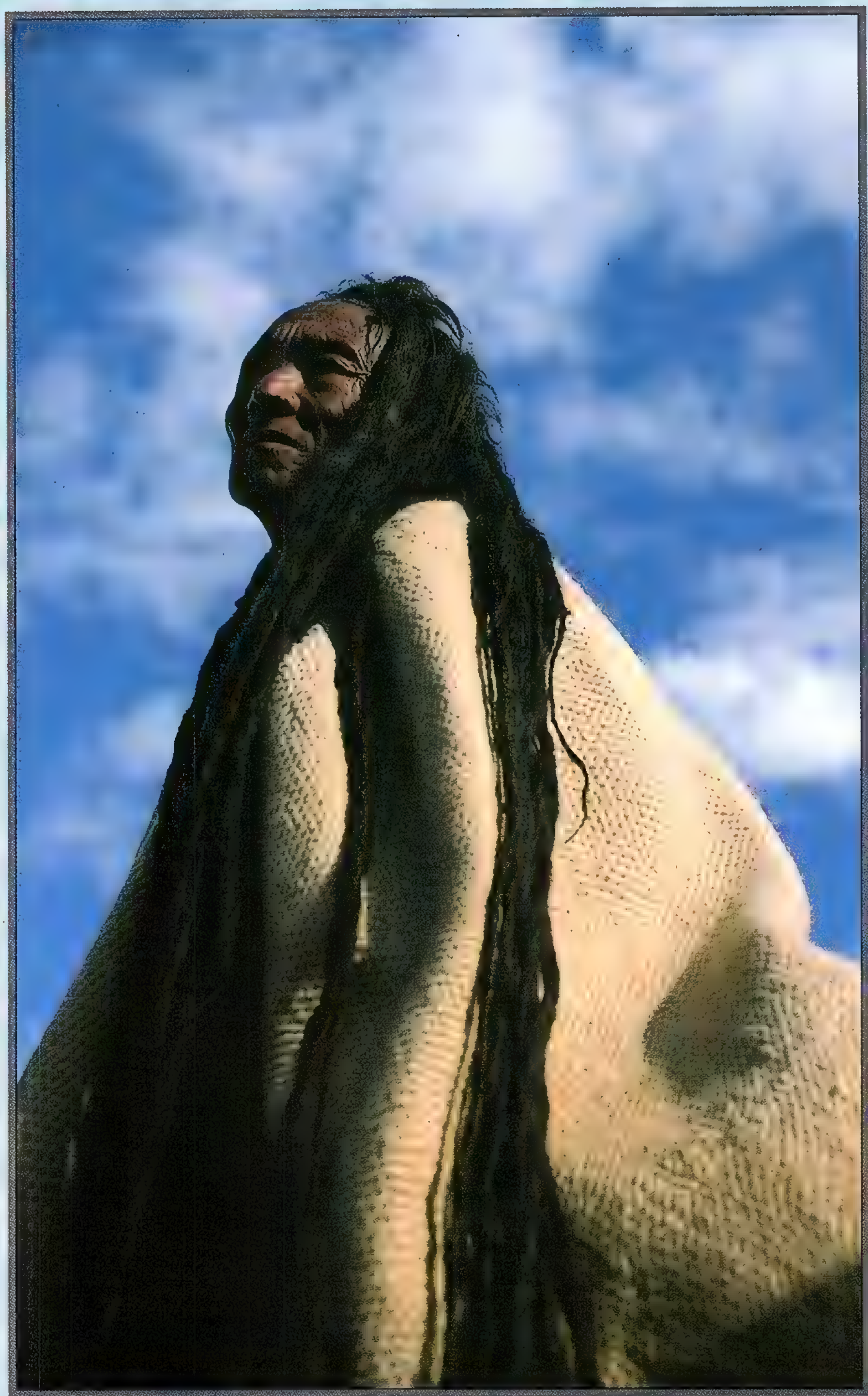
The High Mountains and Deep Valleys of the Yi, Tibetan and Qiang Peoples

Having left Zhaotong in Yunnan Province, the reporters entered Puge in the Liangshan Mountains area which is on the border between Yunnan and Sichuan. From there they began the next phase of their journey, passing through many county seats and towns. From southern to northern Sichuan, they travelled through mountainous areas, plateaus, snow-clad mountains, grassland and several ethnic communities.

The Liangshan Mountains can be divided into two areas, Greater Liangshan and Lesser Liangshan. To the north of the Liangshan Mountains lies the West Sichuan Plateau, part of the Hengduan Mountains. There, snow-clad mountains run from south to north. Between every two mountains a river surges so that mountains and rivers are arranged in neat order.

Garzê-Aba Plateau in northern Sichuan is, by and large, a flat grassland. There, valleys are wide and rivers flows gently. It is an area rich with grass, although, in some places, there are large stretches of marsh due to inadequate drainage. The marshes look like verdant meadow, but in fact they are boggy and difficult to cross.

Various ethnic peoples inhabit this area and each has its own way of life. Of the 5,450,000 Yi people, 1,350,000 live in the Liangshan Mountains area, forming the largest compact community of the Yi nationality in China. The Qiang nationality has a population of 102,000 people. They were the earliest settlers of western China, and they live mainly in Sichuan's Maowen Qiang Autonomous County, Wenchuan County and Lixian County. The Tibetans, who live at the foot of the snowy mountains in northern Sichuan, are completely different, not only from the Qiangs but from Tibetans in Tibet. There they are basically farmers who grow their crops according to the seasons.

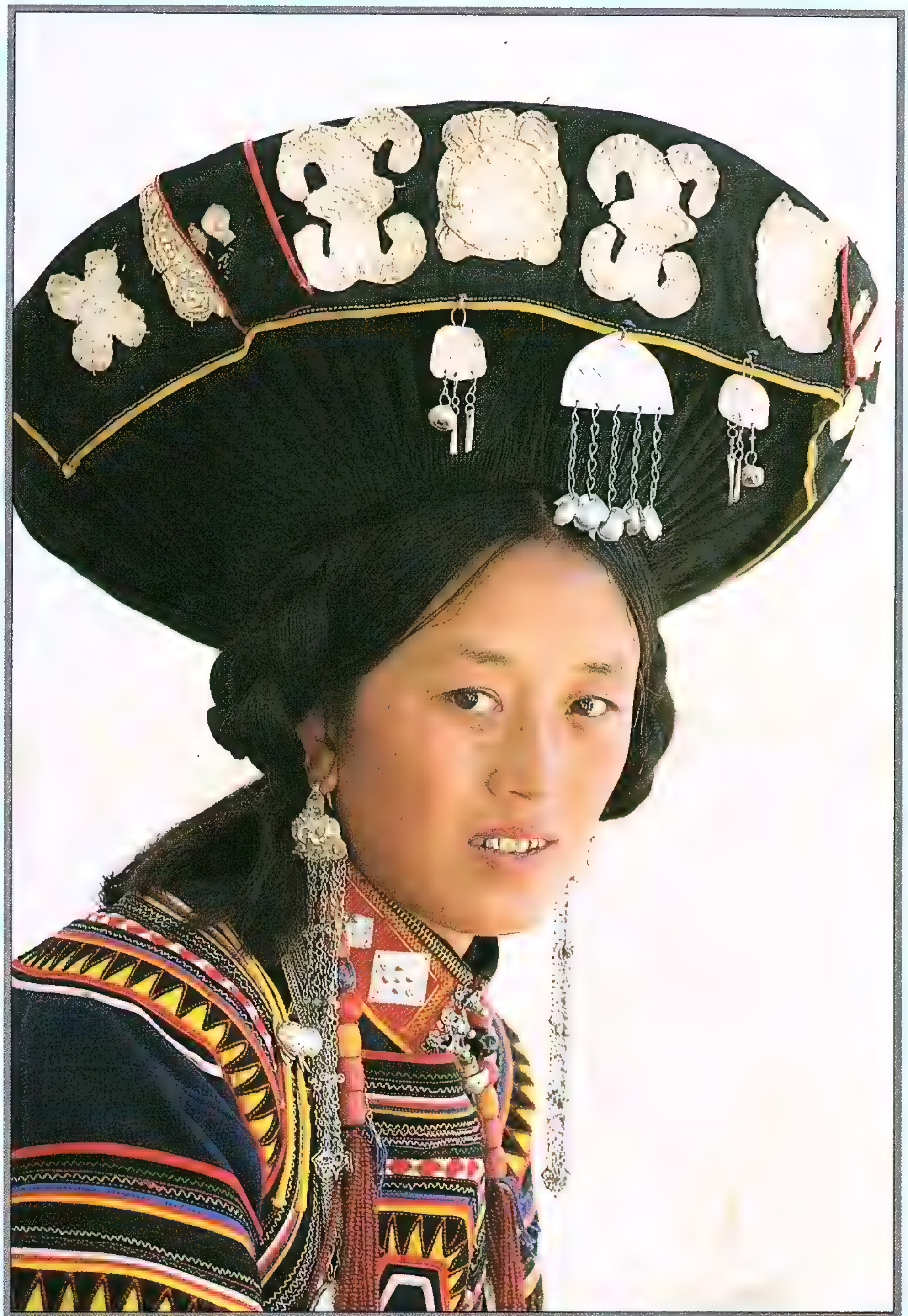


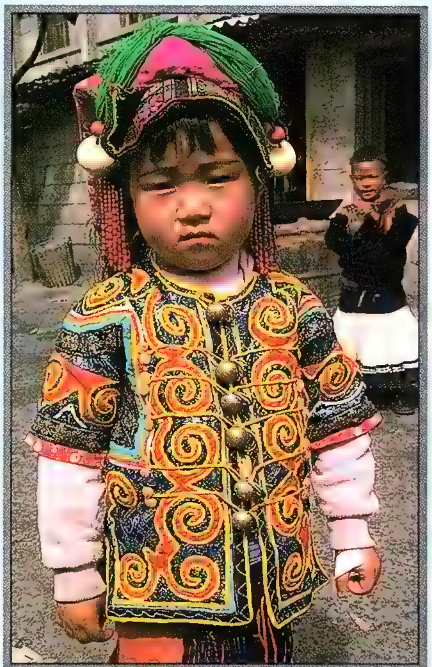
Privilege of Wearing Long Hair

In the area of Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, we often saw men attired in black, their hair rolled up into buns on the top of their heads. But in Butuo County, we saw a 60-year-old man with two-metre-long hair, much longer even than the pigtails of the Qing Dynasty men.

We were told that wearing such long hair is a privilege reserved for those with the title of "suni" who, it is said, are able to eradicate evil spirits and avoid calamity. The "suni" or wizards perform religious rites, sometimes going into a trance or state of frenzy. Because of their strange abilities, they have won high esteem for themselves.

(Photo by Zhong Dakun)





Large and Heavy Headdress

In Butuo County, we often saw the Yi women in large black turbans, such a headdress usually indicating one's social status and wealth. It is 0.66 metres in diameter and made of round after round of 9 cm wide black gauze. Outside, it is decorated with all kinds of silver pieces. No wonder it weighes five to six kilograms.

The Yi nationality has many branches and is, therefore, widely distributed. As a result, their costumes vary according to locality, sex and age. Besides, they have special clothes for special occasions, such as festivals and weddings. Though costumes are rich in variety, the people have much in common, their liking for black, their worship of fire and their militancy.

Butuo women like to dress their children colourfully with dresses they make themselves. In this way, they demonstrate how clever and deft they are.

(Photo by Zhong Dakun)

Torch Festival in the Rain

The day we arrived at Puge was the day of the Torch Festival of the Yi people. Unfortunately, it had begun to rain that evening, but that did not ruin people's enthusiasm. They lit a bonfire and danced the traditional Yi dances anyway.

Why do the Yi people worship fire? According to their legend, an evil deity once descended to earth on the rope ladder that connected Earth with Heaven. The Yi lit thousands of torches and burnt the ladder so that the deity could not escape. This so angered the Emperor of Heaven that he sent a plague of insects, which were also destroyed by the Yi's torches. This legend gradually evolved into today's Torch Festival.

Despite the ceaseless rain, people were fascinated by the performance. Protected by umbrellas, they stood rooted, unwilling to leave.

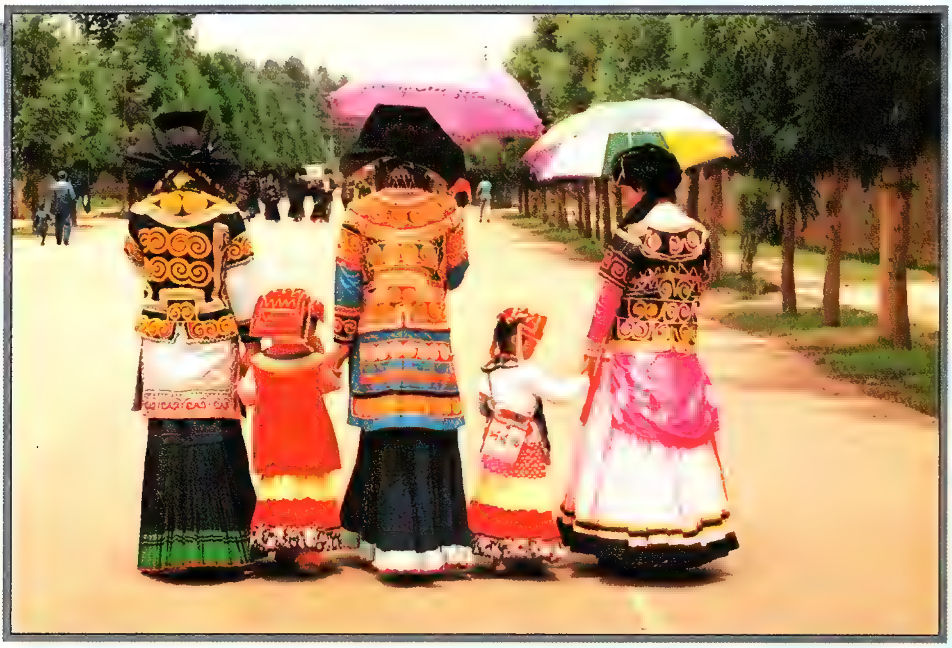
(Photo by Zhong Dakun)

Festival Dresses Improved

On the occasion of traditional festivals, the Yi people all put on their best clothes. At this Torch Festival, they were elaborately attired in order to attend the celebrations.

However, we noticed that the girls in streets were beginning to improve their dress. They have replaced traditional yellow umbrellas with colourful ones and coarse fabric skirts with refined pleated skirts.

(Photo by Luo Kailin)



Wild Anning River

The river before us is named the Anning (Peaceful) River, but it is by no means peaceful. Especially in summer and autumn, it surges like a wild horse and is very dangerous to ferry across. In April 1935, the Red Army arrived at Huili after crossing the Jinsha River and fought north along this river.

We passed Lugu Township by the Anning River and headed for the county seat of Xide. When we got to Shilong Road, we caught sight of a crowd of bicycles standing by the river. An archway stands there, and when we got closer, we found these characters written on it: Advance wave upon wave.

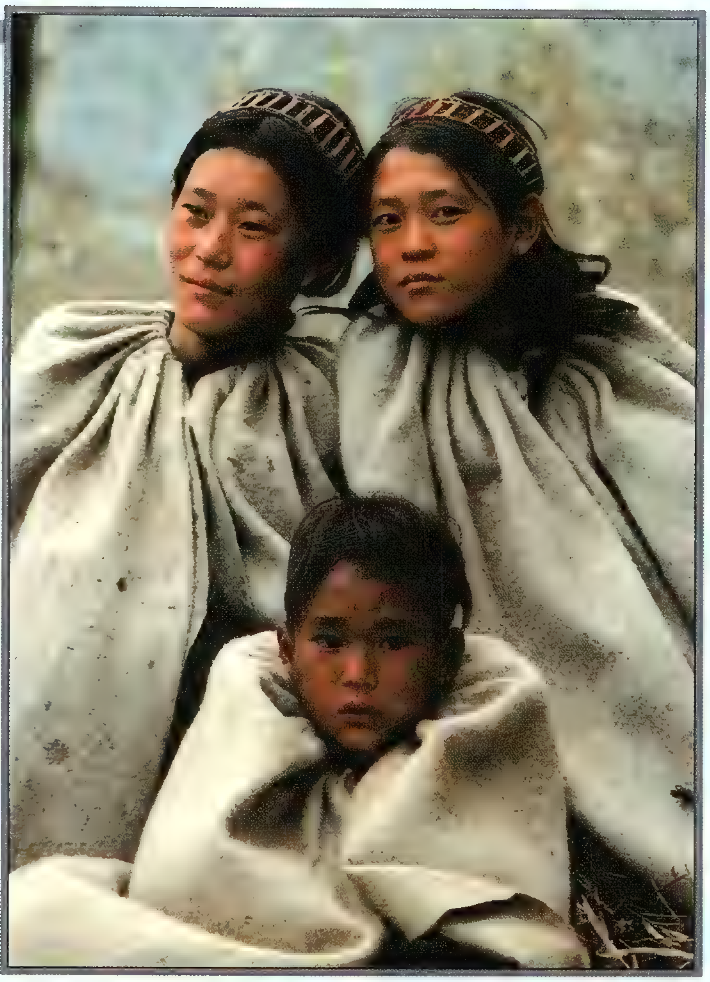
(Photo by Zhong Dakun)

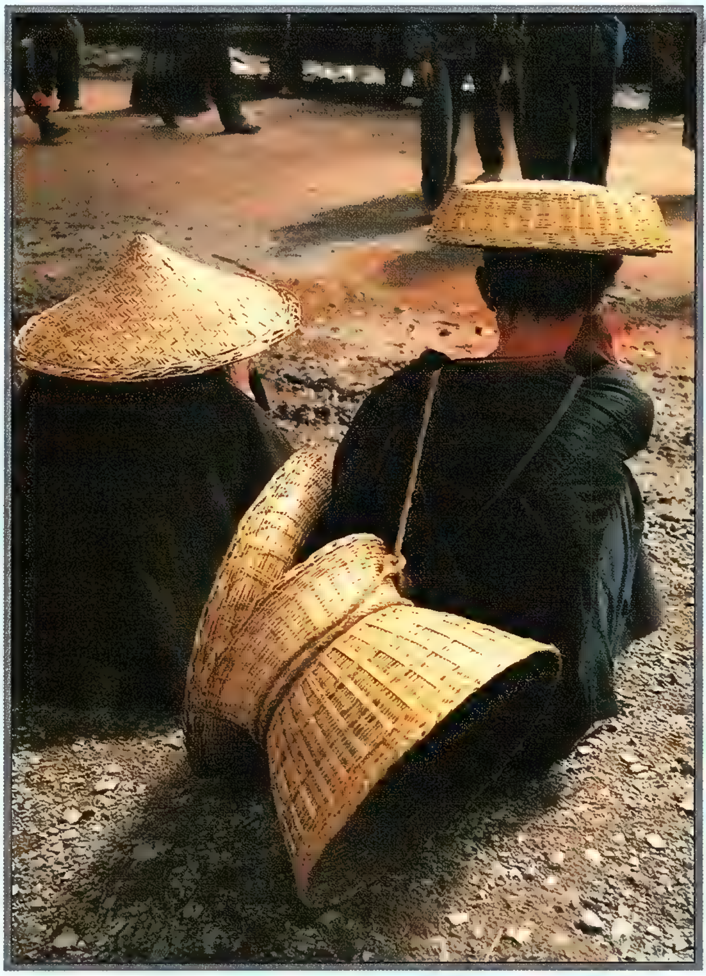
Multi-function Sheepskin

It was the beginning of winter when we reached Meigu County. As night fell, the temperature dropped remarkably. As we were wandering in the streets, we noticed that everybody had a piece of sheepskin over his or her shoulders. It is locally called *charwa* (cape), which, to us, added a touch of mystery to the place.

Charwa is mainly yellow or black in colour, and it serves several functions. It can be used to keep warm. When one has to pass the night in the open up in the mountains, it can be used as a cover, and, in the rainy season, it serves as a raincoat because it is waterproof.

(Photo by Zhou Shuting)





Country Fair Starting at Noon

Liangshan Mountains teem with bamboo. At noontime on a country fair day, the Yi people go to the fair carrying bamboo baskets loaded with all sorts of articles. There they spread out their articles on the ground and squat as they hawk their wares. To work in a squatting position is a habit of the local Yi people, and selling things in the streets is no exception. In this area, country fairs start at noon, so when the sun is well up in the sky, people begin to gather at the fair which ends at sunset.

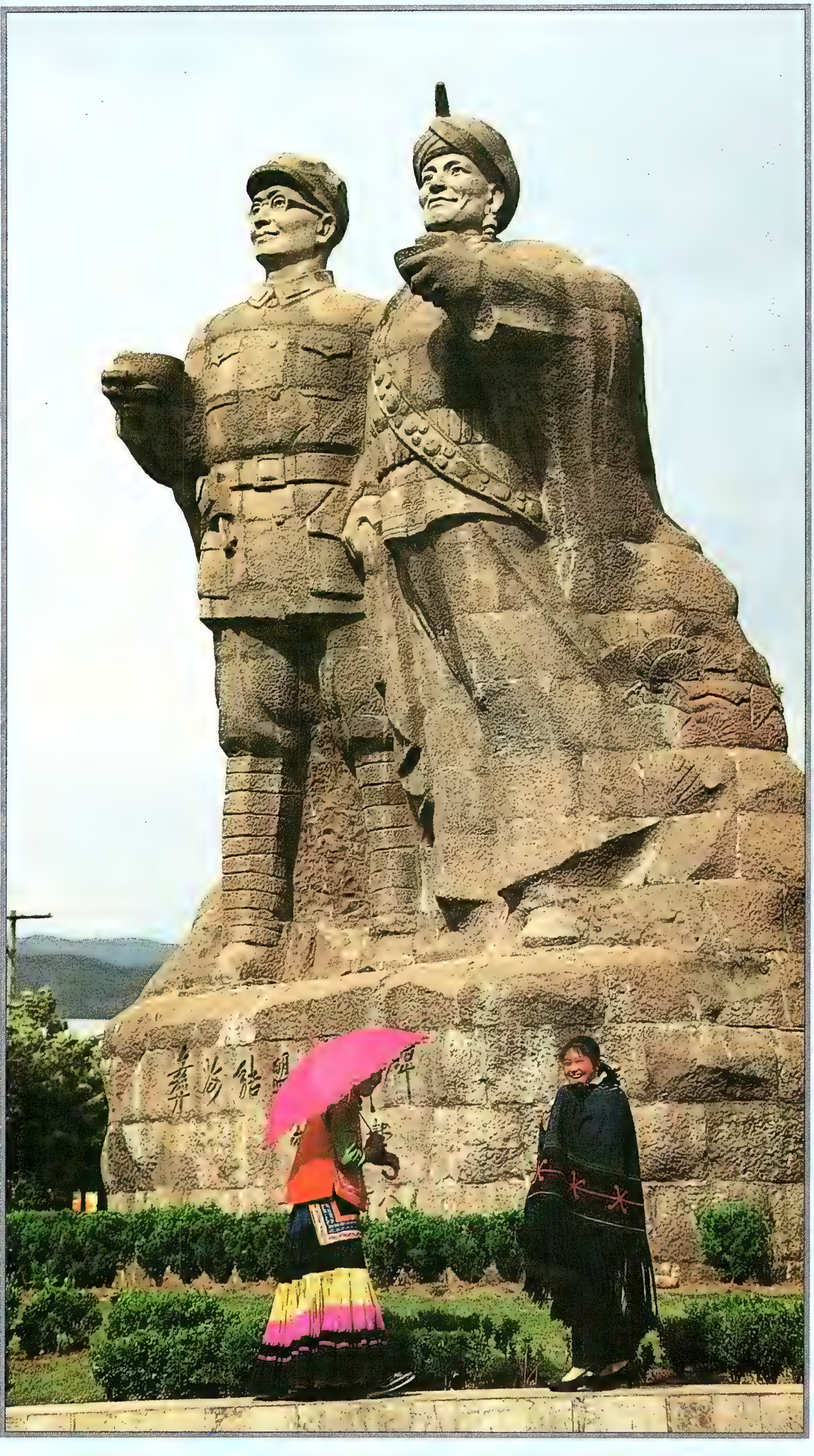
(Photo by Guo Jianliang)

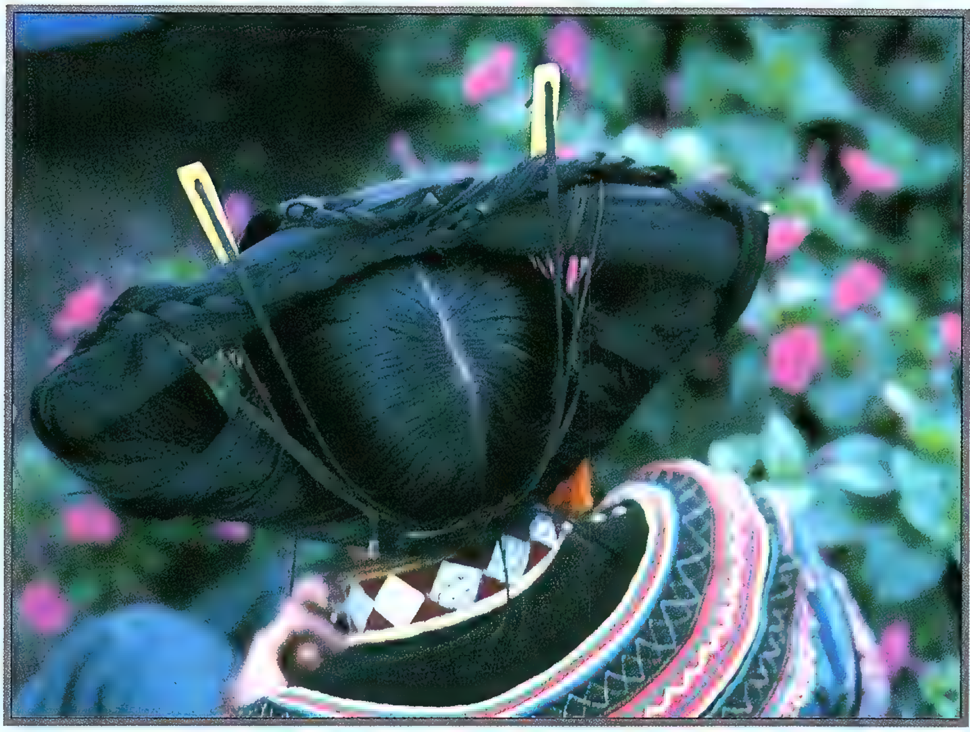
Alliance by the Lakeside

August in Liangshan is the rainy season. When we left Meigu, we drove west for over 80 kilometres through verdant paddy-fields on our way to Mianning County.

Having left the county seat, we crossed over Mount Tuowu and climbed along a hairpin road. Soon Lake Yihai, which was hidden amidst mountain woods, came into sight. There stood a granite memorial sculpture of an alliance between Xiao Yedan, a leader of the Yi people, and Liu Bocheng, a Red Army commander. They became sworn brothers when the army reached Liangshan. It was by this lake the two men shed blood into the same bowl to form their alliance, and it was Xiao Yedan who served as guide and led the army out of the Yi area.

(Photo by Wang Miao)





Strict Rules for Hair-dos

In the county seat of Mianning, we happened to see a Yi girl make herself up. First, she put some bone hairpins through her hair and then she combed it into a crescent bun. Finally she place a headsquare on the bun. I was told that she was actually preparing for a date that day.

In the Liangshan area, there are strict rules about women's hair-dos and skirts. For instance, a girl in a child's skirt must wear a pony-tail. When grown up, she changes her child's skirt for an adult one, and she should have two pigtails to coil on top of her head. An adult Yi woman is not allowed to take part in a sacrificial ceremony together with her father or brothers. However, she has at least one significant liberty: she can court a man and find herself a husband.

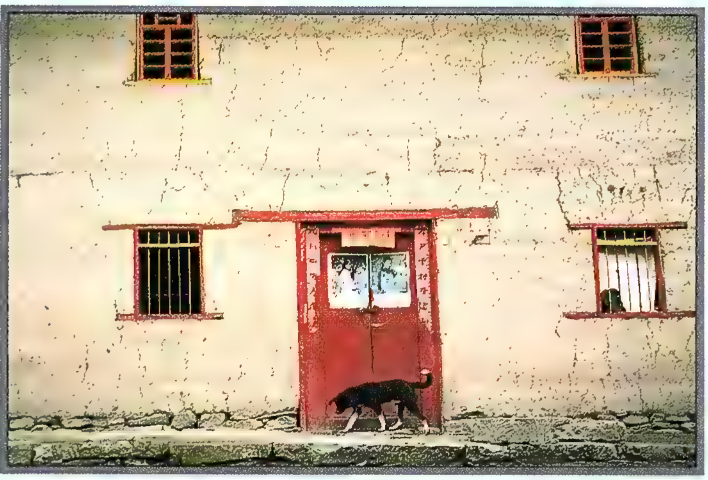
(Photo by Di Xianghua)

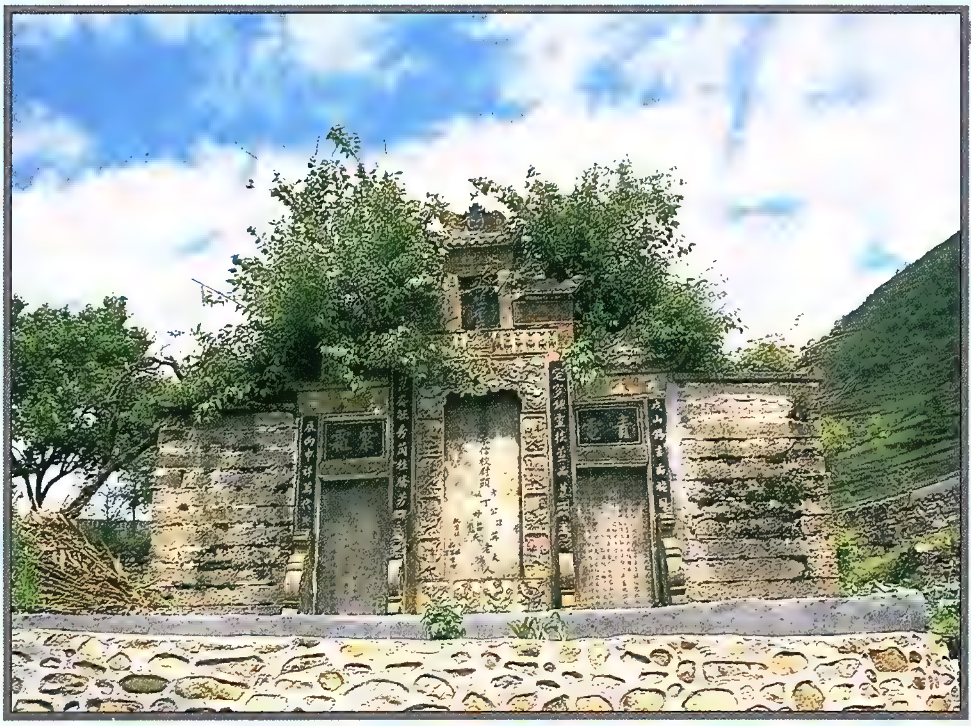
Farmers' Families in Yuexi

Yuexi is also in the area of Liangshan. When we got there, it was the busiest time for farming. We approached one of the houses; its window was wide open and we could see everything inside. The owner was not at home, so the door was locked.

The houses in this area are all built with local building materials. Their walls, made of rammed earth about two feet thick, make the house warm in winter and cool in summer. In this part of the country, the temperature drops drastically at night, and houses built of rammed earth suit such a climate. This type of house is built with a sitting-room in the centre and two wing rooms on its sides. Because each wing room has a window, they resemble a pair of eyes.

(Photo by Zhong Dakun)





Early Qing Dynasty Tombs

On our way to the Dadu River from Mianning, we passed a town named Haitang (Crabapple). I was told that once a beautiful girl in this area had been chosen to be an emperor's concubine. This made quite a stir in this mountainous area. We were quite surprised to hear that, and curious to find out if the local girls were truly good-looking.

It was impossible to find out if the tale was true. However, at the entrance to the township, we happened to see an early Qing Dynasty tomb at the roadside which seemed to tell some of the history of the place.

The Red Army was once stationed here. It was from here that they crossed the Greater Liangshan Mountain and went to the Dadu River.

(Photo by Zhong Dakun)

Train Racing Overhead

After Haitang, we headed north where the road and the Chengdu-Kunming Railway run almost parallel. However, when we got to Baishahe Pass, a border area between Yuexi County and Ganluo County, the road zigzagged along the small river while the railway flew over a valley. We stopped under the railway bridge, and, before long, a train raced out of a cave and onto the bridge. It roared past us overhead as though a plane had flown over.

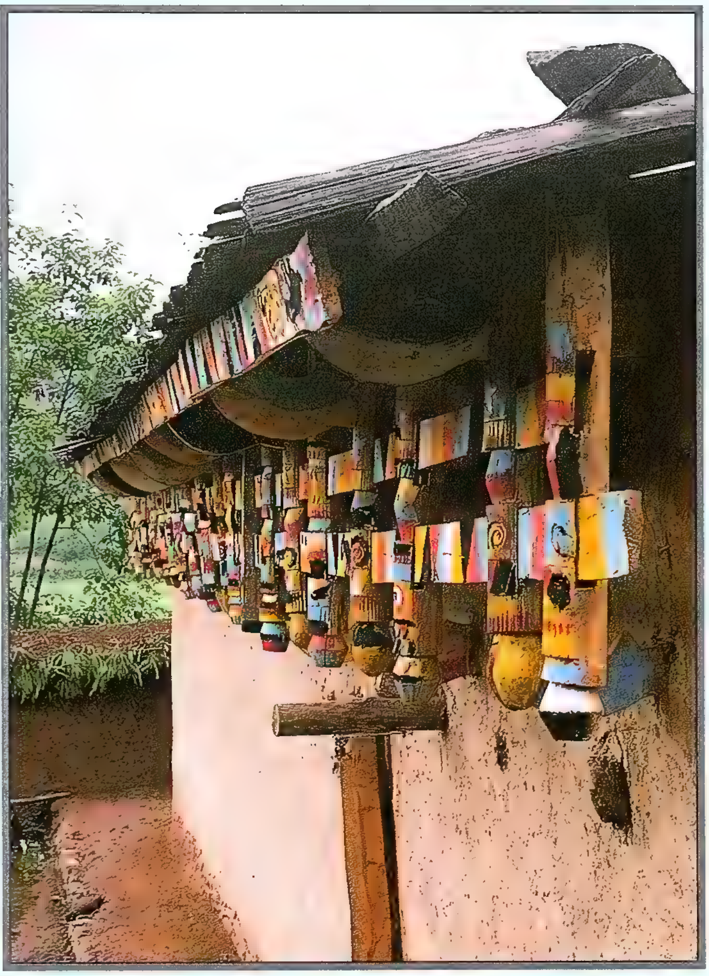
This area is where the Hengduan Mountains and the Sichuan Basin merge. It is an area of high mountains and deep valleys. For hundreds of years, it was separated from the outside world. Within the distance of fifty kilometres, one has to pass many dangerous places to get there. No wonder, roads and railways passed it by. *(Photo by Zhong Dakun)*

Liangshan Mountains Shrouded in Mist and Cloud

"Between the sky and earth there is a place covered by red clouds and black clouds by turn. Here, the mountain is like a veiled girl. The land is dotted with golden and silvery patches. Waters like seven-coloured ribbons...." These lines from a Yi epic describe the Greater Liangshan Mountain.

We reached Ganluo County in the northern part of the Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture. It was drizzling when we crossed the Liangshan Mountains. Afterwards, white clouds arrived, riding on the wind, and they soon engulfed the mountains. The scene was just like the landscape described in the epic.

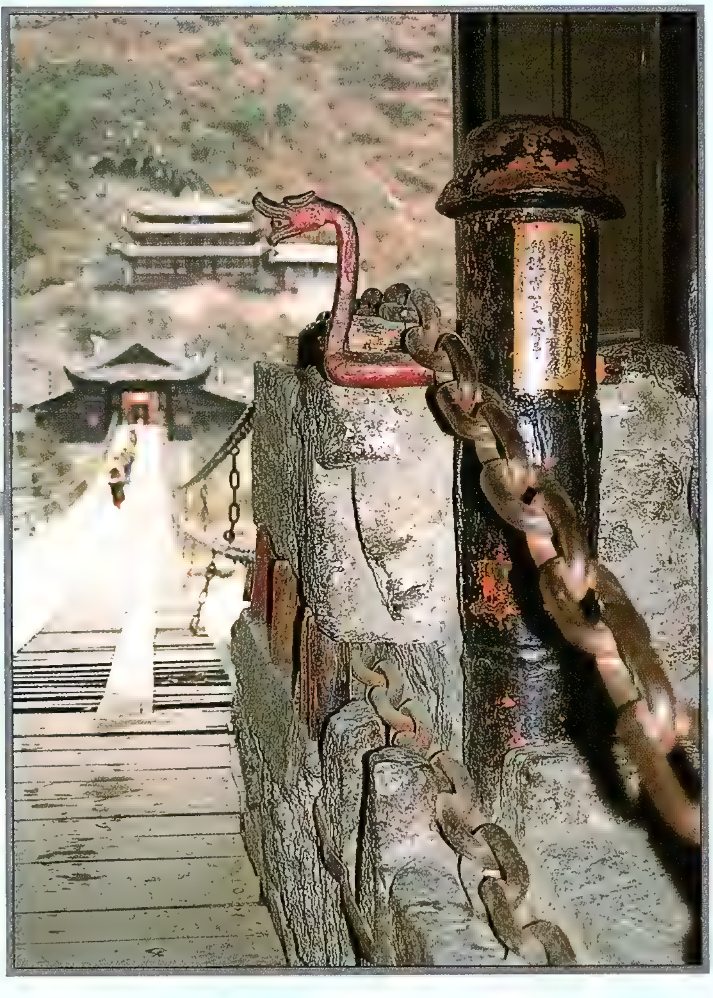
(Photo by Zhong Dakun)



Spirit of Nature

We lodged in a local household that night. When we first entered the house, it was pitch-black, and we could not even see our own fingers. Perhaps because of this, decorations were concentrated at the front gates and eaves. There were designs in arch forms on the gates. The engravings of the sun, moon, birds and beasts beneath the eave are said to represent the "Spirit of Nature".

(Photo by Zhong Dakun)



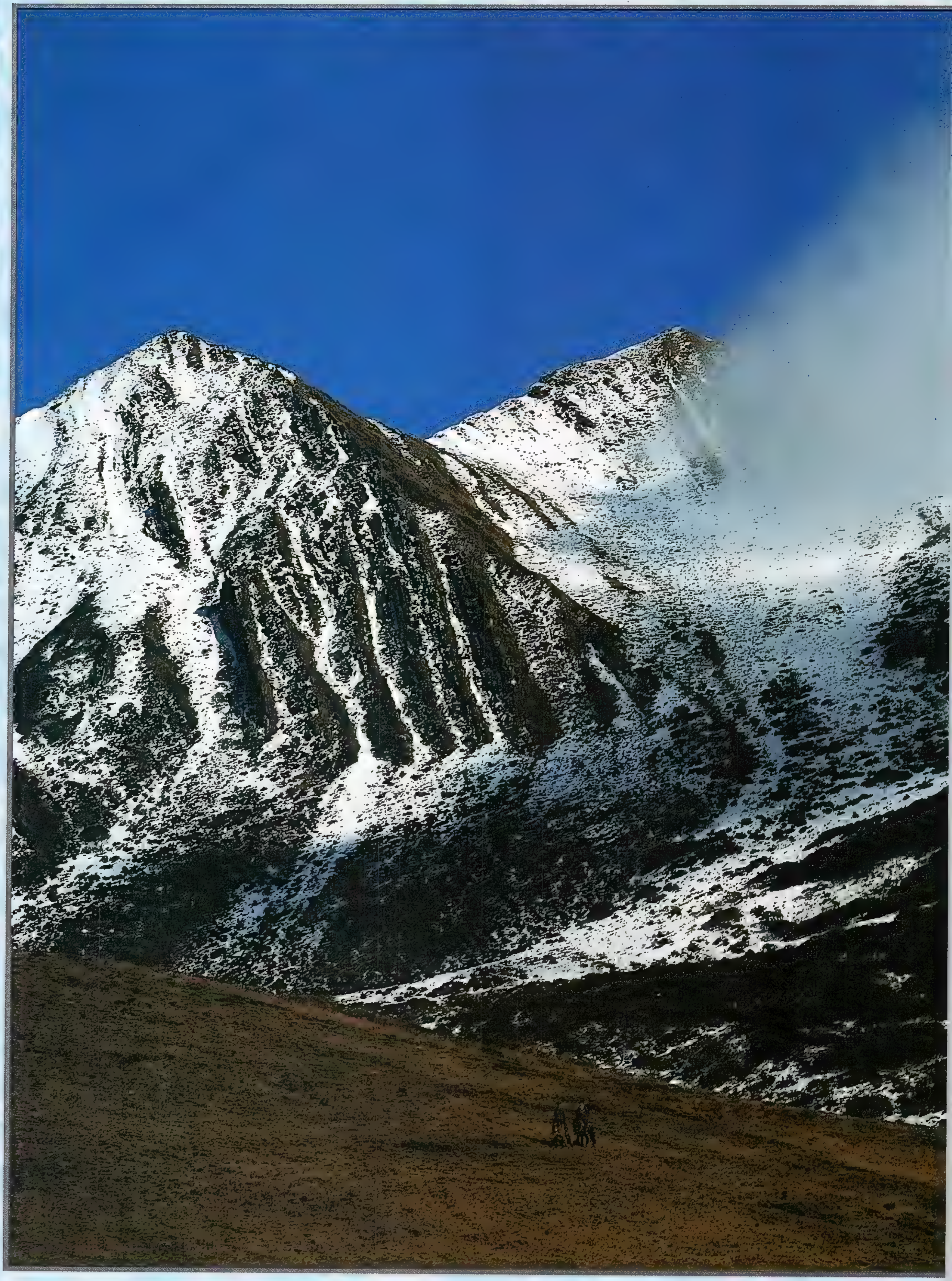
The Iron Chain Bridge

When we left Ganluo, our coach headed for the Luding Bridge in Luding County along the Dadu River.

The Luding Bridge is made of nine bowl-thick iron chains, linking the two banks. On those chains lay wooden planks for people to walk on. On each side of the planks is installed two chains to serve as a protective railing. The Dadu River is renowned for its rapid current, and, when we got to the middle of the bridge, we looked down and saw the water surging forward, throwing itself at the huge rocks with loud bangs, forming many a whirlpool.

The Luding Bridge is also known as the Iron Chain Bridge. It was first built in 1705 and took five years to complete. It is on the major route linking Sichuan and Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. In May 1935 the Red Army crossed this bridge with the planks removed. Inching their way through a shower of bullets, they virtually crawled along the chains and successfully reached the other bank.

(Photo by Ge Jialin)



Feeling the Cold in the Jiajin Mountain

In Dawei Township of Xiaojin County on the east side of Jiajin Mountain, we prepared to climb the mountain. Dawei is a small township with only one street which is part of the major route. Local people told us that the road from Dawei to the foot of Jiajin Mountain was not really a road. About twenty to thirty kilometres long, it was mostly an animal track, and some parts are full of rocks. It was very difficult to travel on such a road, so we decided to go up along the slope on horseback.

Before daybreak the following morning, we set off. After travelling for over twenty kilometres, we came to a Tibetan hamlet. Afterwards, we threaded our way through a wood, and from then on we did not meet a single soul. When we reached the foot of the Jiajin Mountain, it was already one o'clock in the afternoon. Both the horses and men were exhausted, and it was impossible to start our climb.

It was more than 3,000 metres above sea level, and the temperature was low. Though we had on thick down-padded coats, we still felt rather cold. The grass at the foot of the mountain was brown and withered, but it felt soft and comfortable under our feet. Before the evening fog rose, we hurriedly left the Jiajin Mountain.

It was on the edge of this snow-clad plateau that the Red Army crossed this 4,200-metre-high mountain with its unpredictable climate.

(Photo by Lin Yiping)

A Suspension Bridge

When we returned to Dawei, we got on our coach and headed north along a mountain gully. On the way we came to a suspension bridge, under which was a rolling river. Obviously it was dangerous, but, to get to Lianghekou before goint to the second snow-clad mountain — Mengbi Mountain — we had to cross this bridge.

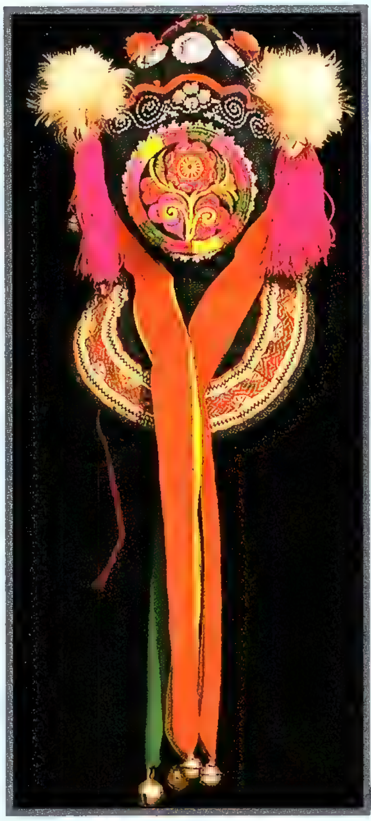
(Photo by Lin Yiping)

Minjiang River Valley in Autumn

Arriving at the Minjiang River Valley, we entered a Qiang hamlet along a gully. Autumn had tinted the poplar leaves golden and the maple leaves flaming red.

From one house, a small boy rushed out, his well-chiselled features a surprise to us. The Qiang is an ancient nationality who worship more than thirty deities, although they do not have statues of them. Instead, a type of white stone is used to represent their gods. As a result, you can see such white stones everywhere that the Qiang people live. Usually, each family has five pieces of this stone on the roof, representing five deities worshipped by the particular family.

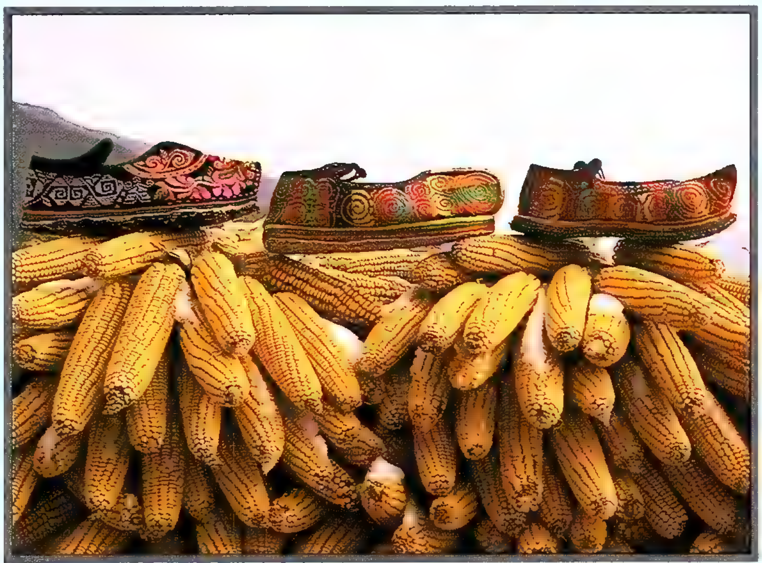
(Photo by Ge Jialin)



Hat with Flaps

Before we entered the hamlet, we saw, from time to time, children wearing hats with flaps. Such hats, we were told later, are very warm and wind-proof. At the back of each hat there is an embroidered auspicious design. Dangling from the edge of the hat were some colourful and meticulously-made streamers with little bells.

(Photo by Ge Jialin)



The Importance of Cloud Pattern Shoes

"Cleverness of a girl is measured by the prettiness of her shoes" is a saying in this Qiang hamlet.

The Qiang girls begin to learn sewing and embroidery when they are still small. Young as they are, they are able to make cloud-pattern shoes with a cloth sole of seven to ten layers. In the eyes of the young men, the quality of the embroidery on the shoe cover is an important criterion for a good wife. When a pair of shoes is made, it is displayed on top of piles of maize under the house eaves, so young men, when passing, can see them and get to know if the girl who made them is capable or not.

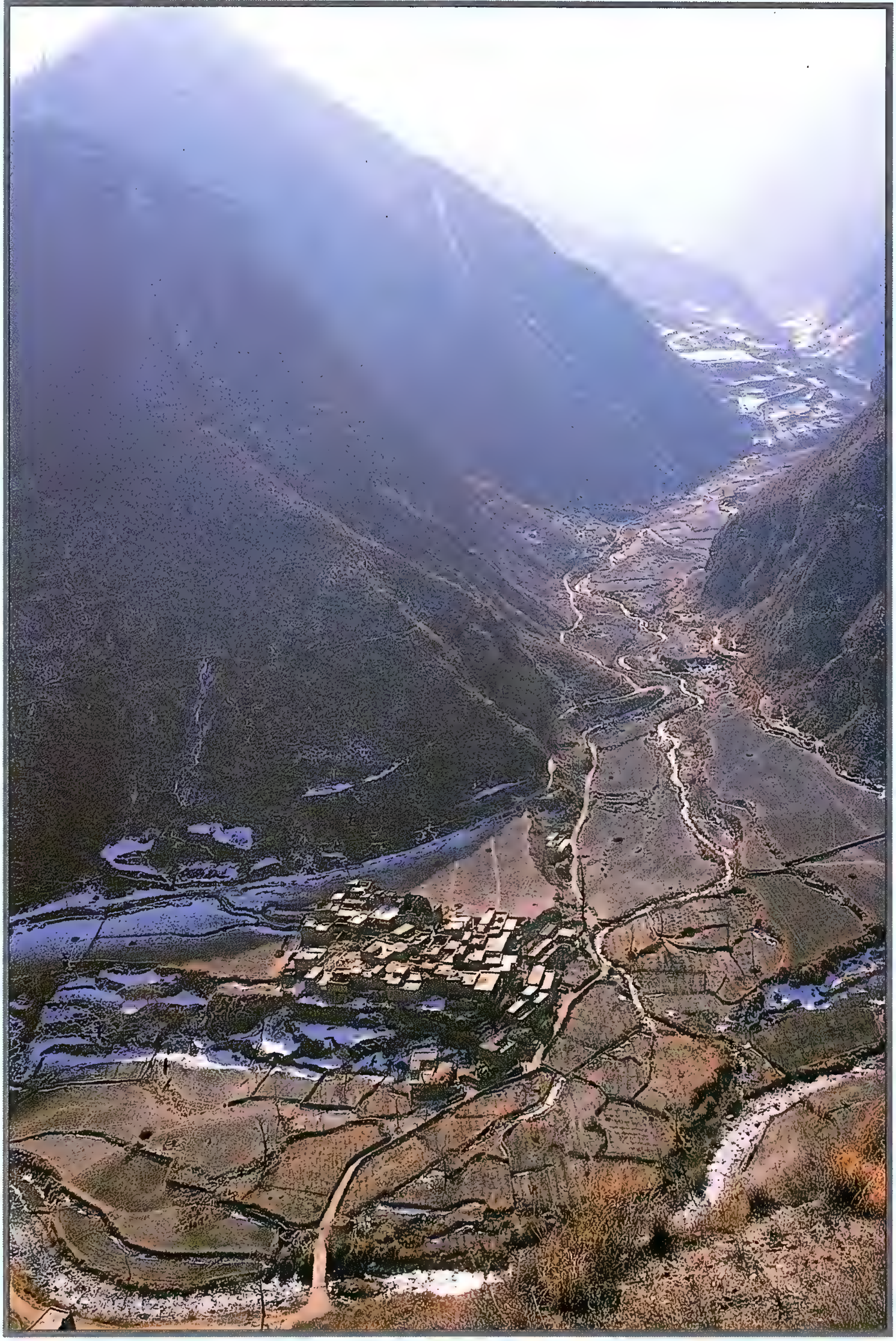
(Photo by Ge Jialin)

Qiang Hamlets

Hamlets of the Qiang people are mostly built beside gullies along the Minjiang River Valley. Criss-crossed riverlets form the Minjiang River system. We called on Hexinba of Sanlong Township in Maoxian County. Here the villages are also built in a river valley, flanked by steep mountains.

The Red Army once had a battle here, and fortifications still exist today.

(Photo by Ge Jialin)

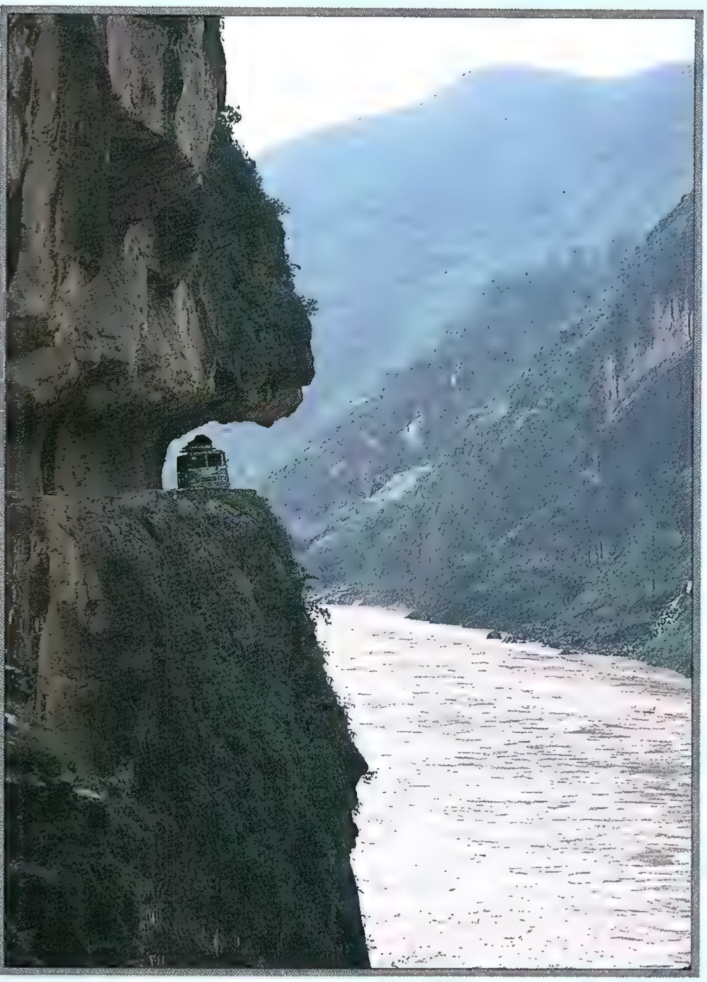


On the Ancient Road of Sichuan

"Travelling on this road of Sichuan is as difficult as getting to Heaven." This is a line from a famous Tang Dynasty poem. Having said good-bye to the Qiang villagers, we drove to Guangyuan in the east. The road we took happened to be the "ancient road of Sichuan". There are altogether five passes on this road. During the Three Kingdom Period (220-280), Zhuge Liang, prime minister of the State of Shu, marched through these five passes during his six expeditions.

Our coach headed north along the meandering Sichuan-Shaanxi Highway. Now we came to the part which was once a plank road built along the face of a cliff, but which today has been expanded into a proper road. Looking through the windows, we saw sheer cliff on one side and the surging Jialing River on the other. We were told that this part of the road is named Mingyue (Bright Moon) Gorge, which was said to be the genuine starting point of the "ancient road of Sichuan".

(Photo by Paul Lau)



A Qiang Wedding

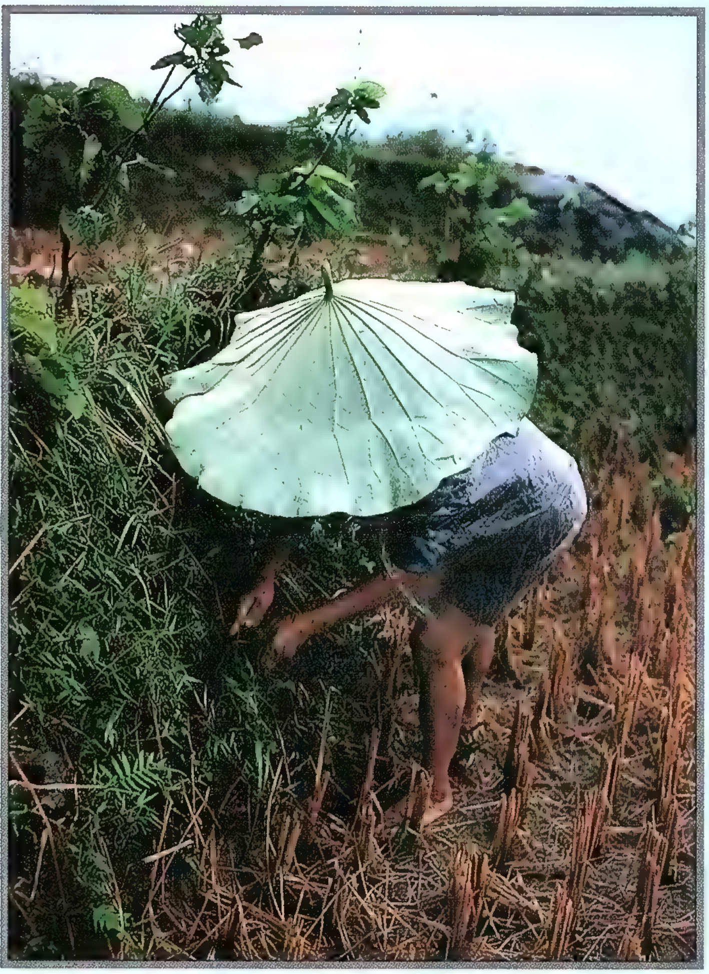
Local villagers also told us that the late autumn and early winter, a leisure period for farmers, was the best time for weddings. In the families whose children were getting married, there is great commotion and fun.

According to local custom, the bride waits at home for the arrival of the wedding procession from the bridegroom's side. As soon as it arrives, the uncle of the bridegroom goes into the bride's room, and carrying her on his back, runs out. Despite the protests from the bride's relatives and ignoring the bride's kicking and crying, he finally carries the girl away.

When the bride is carried to the bridegroom's home, the father-in-law picks up a sharp knife and cuts the throat of a rooster, whose blood is dropped on the way the bride has come. As the bride enters the gate, she first treads on a bowl and breaks it to mean that their new life will be peaceful year after year.

After the wedding ceremony, the bridegroom's family holds a banquet. Some fifty tables are laid out and there is an endless of supply of food. People dine until the moon rises in the east.

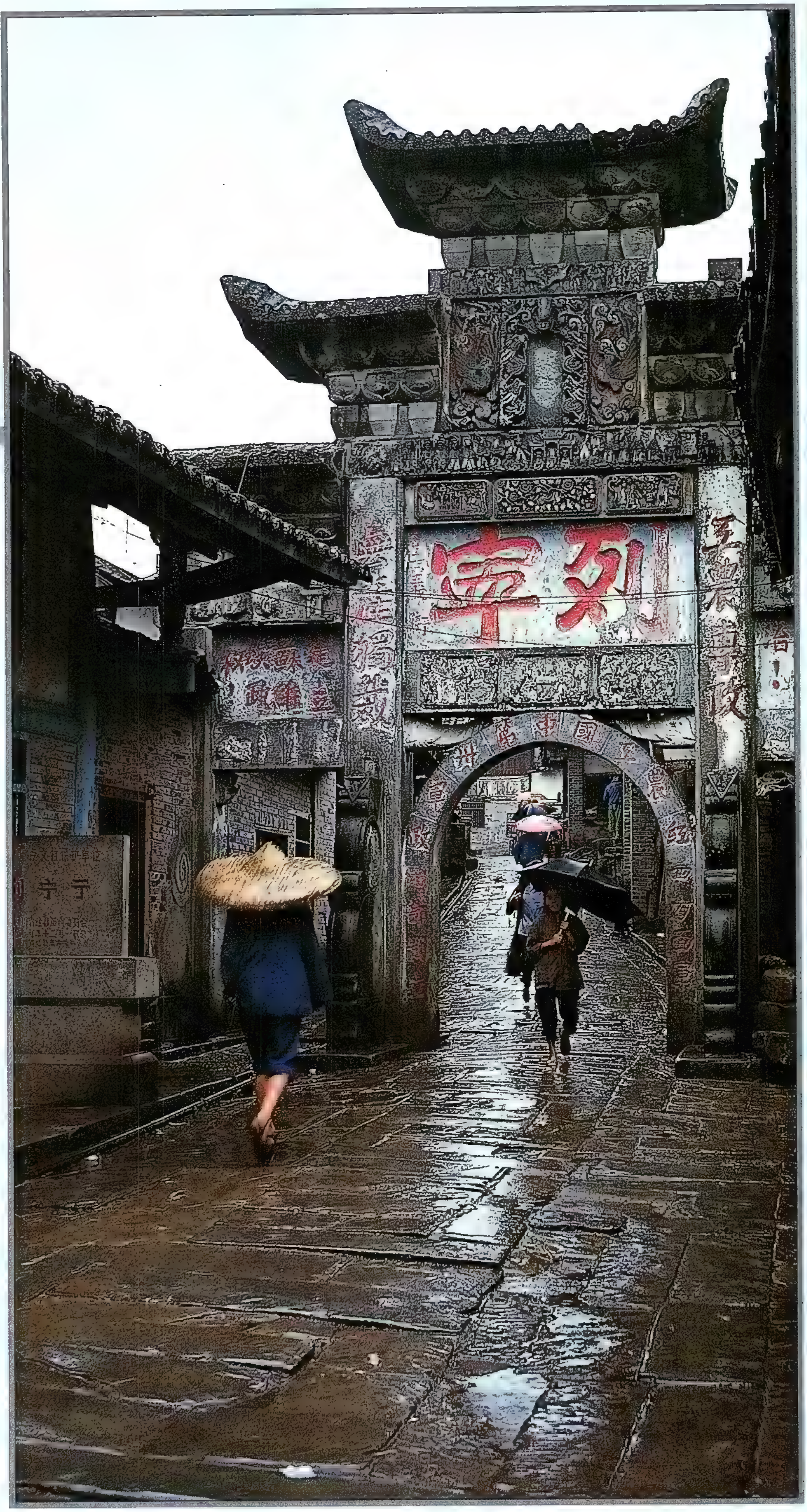
(Photo by Ge Jialin)



Lotus Leaf Used for a Hat

It began to rain on our way to Wangcang. A farmer who was cutting grass on the road side hurriedly took out a plastic sheet and covered himself. However, he had nothing to protect his head. But suddenly he hit on an idea, for we saw him pluck a huge lotus leaf and cover his own head with it. The leaf was so large that it covered not only his head but also his shoulders.

(Photo by Paul Lau)



Characters of Old Slogans

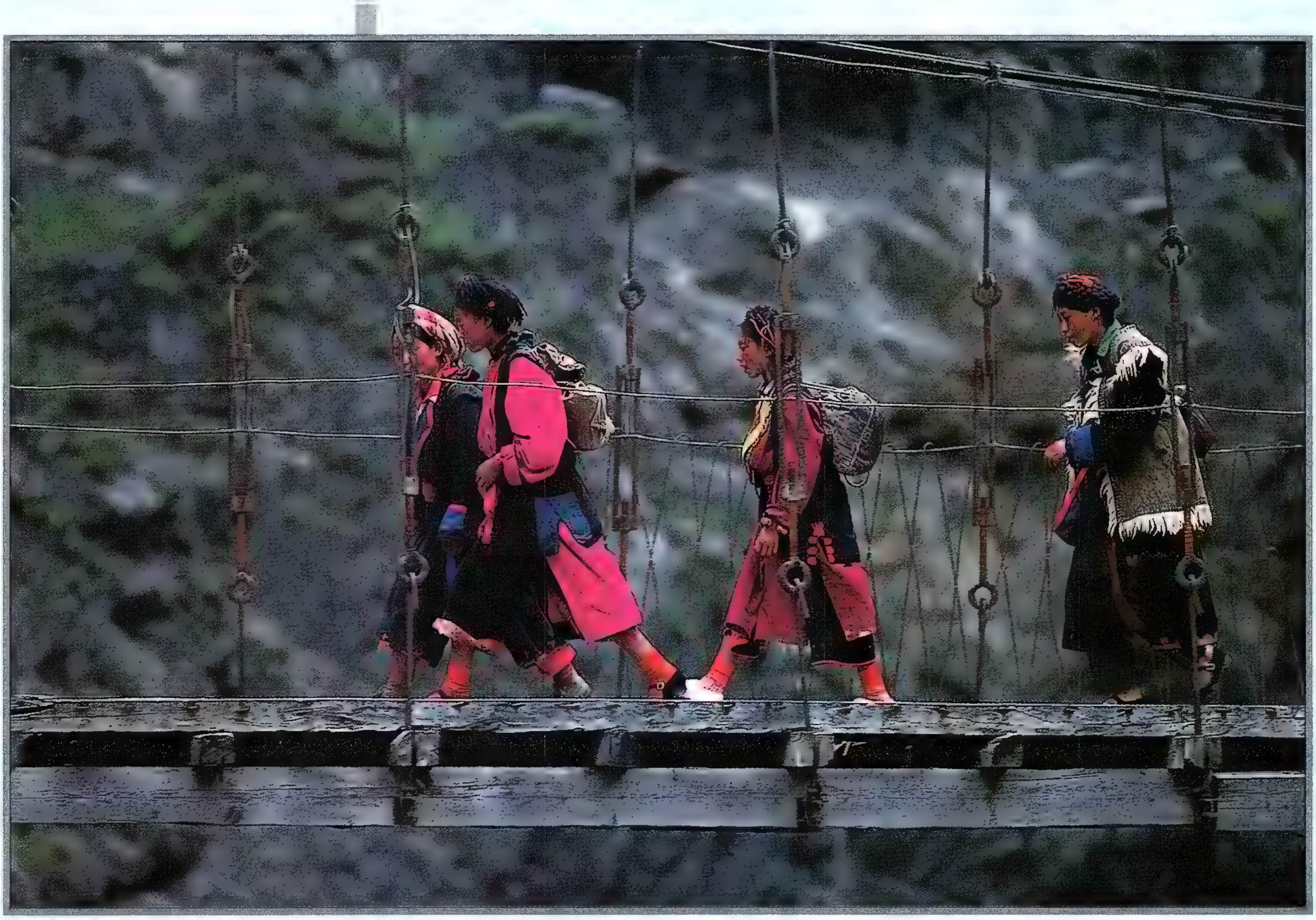
It was still raining when we arrived at Wangcang. The long flagstone path was all wet, and the air was very refreshing. The red characters carved on an ancient-looking archway were particularly eye-catching. The Red Army soldiers were once stationed there. Today, this path is named "Lenin Street".

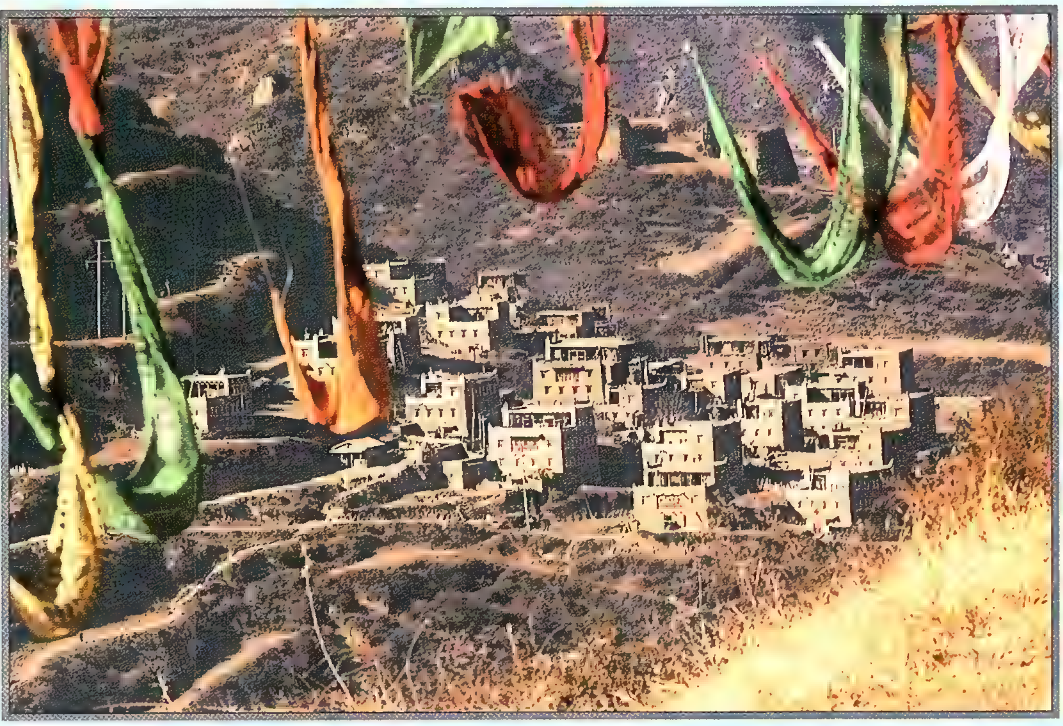
(Photo by Paul Lau)

Tibetans in Heishui

After Wangcang, we drove back along the same road and soon arrived at Heishui. In this area, gullies are narrow, valleys deep, and the mountains clad in snow. Sometimes, in order to cross a river, one has to take a detour on mountain paths for a dozen kilometres to find a chained bridge. No wonder the costume of the local Tibetans was much simpler than that of the Tibetans in other parts of the country. Perhaps it was more convenient and lighter for a long distance trek. However, the local farmers wore much better clothes because, I guess, they did not have to do much walking. Even at work, they had colourful headwear on their heads.

(Photos by Leong Ka Tai)





Tibetan Houses in Barkam

Having left Heishui, we got to Barkam. We climbed up a hill to enjoy the landscape and caught sight of a cluster of houses in traditional Tibetan style in the fold of a mountain. They appeared like fortifications. Laid with rocks, each house is a three-storey building. The ground floor is used as a warehouse or a stable. The first floor is where people live and the top floor seems only half built, because half of it served as a balcony.

Nearby, there were a few streamers with sutra written on them, fluttering on top of the hills. It is said that to plant such a streamer on the wild mountaintop and let it flutter in the wind is as good as reciting the sutra which bring good luck.

(Photo by Ge Jialin)

Moving as the Seasons Change

When we got to Hongyuan, it was even colder. It was the time that local Tibetans begin to prepare for moving elsewhere, that is, moving from summer meadows to winter meadows. Of course they bring their sheep and cattle along, hoping to find good grass. During this period, the summer meadows can have a proper "cultivation" and when grass in the winter meadows is almost at an end, the herders move back.

On their way, they often hoist Buddhist streamers in the mountains, to ask Buddha to secure their lives on the journey.

(Photo by Leong Ka Tai)

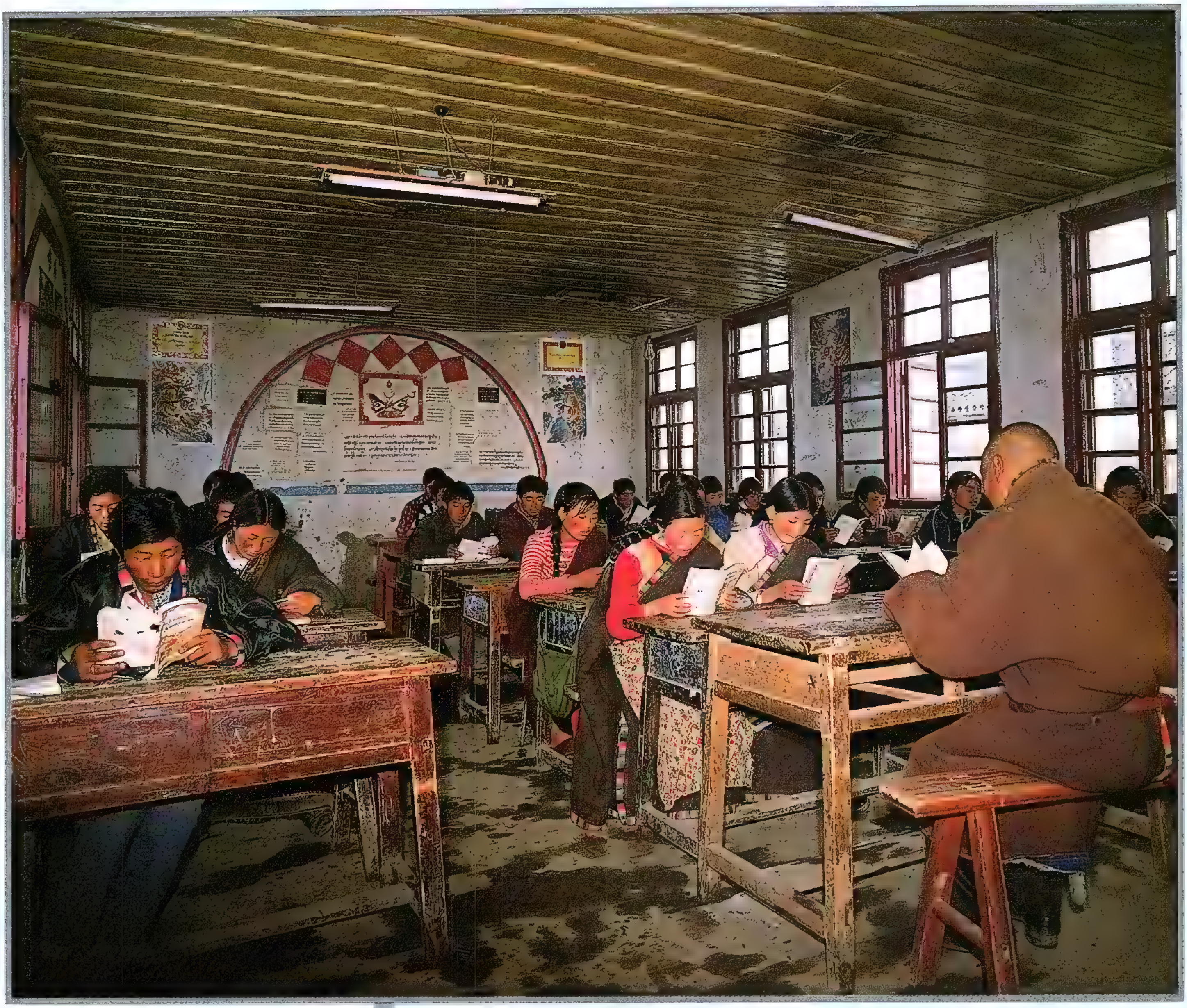
Sunrise and Sunset on the Grasslands

At Hongyuan, we had the opportunity to enjoy magnificent sunrises and sunsets.

At daybreak, we came to the open grasslands, waiting to see the sunrise. The grassland is vast, with a few riverlets meandering across it . The clouds were so low, it seemed that they were going to crush the mountains. Before long, the sky showed a beam of golden light, and the clouds nearby were dyed red, looking like pieces of burning paper. The land was beginning to wake up from its slumber. A moment later, the clouds dispersed, revealing a bright red sun climbing up from behind them, cascading its warm sunshine over every corner of the world.

In the gloaming of the evening, the scene of the grasslands was quite different. A setting sun slanted its light over a riverlet. There was a clear-cut boundary between the glittering water and the green grass.

(Photo by Leong Ka Tai)

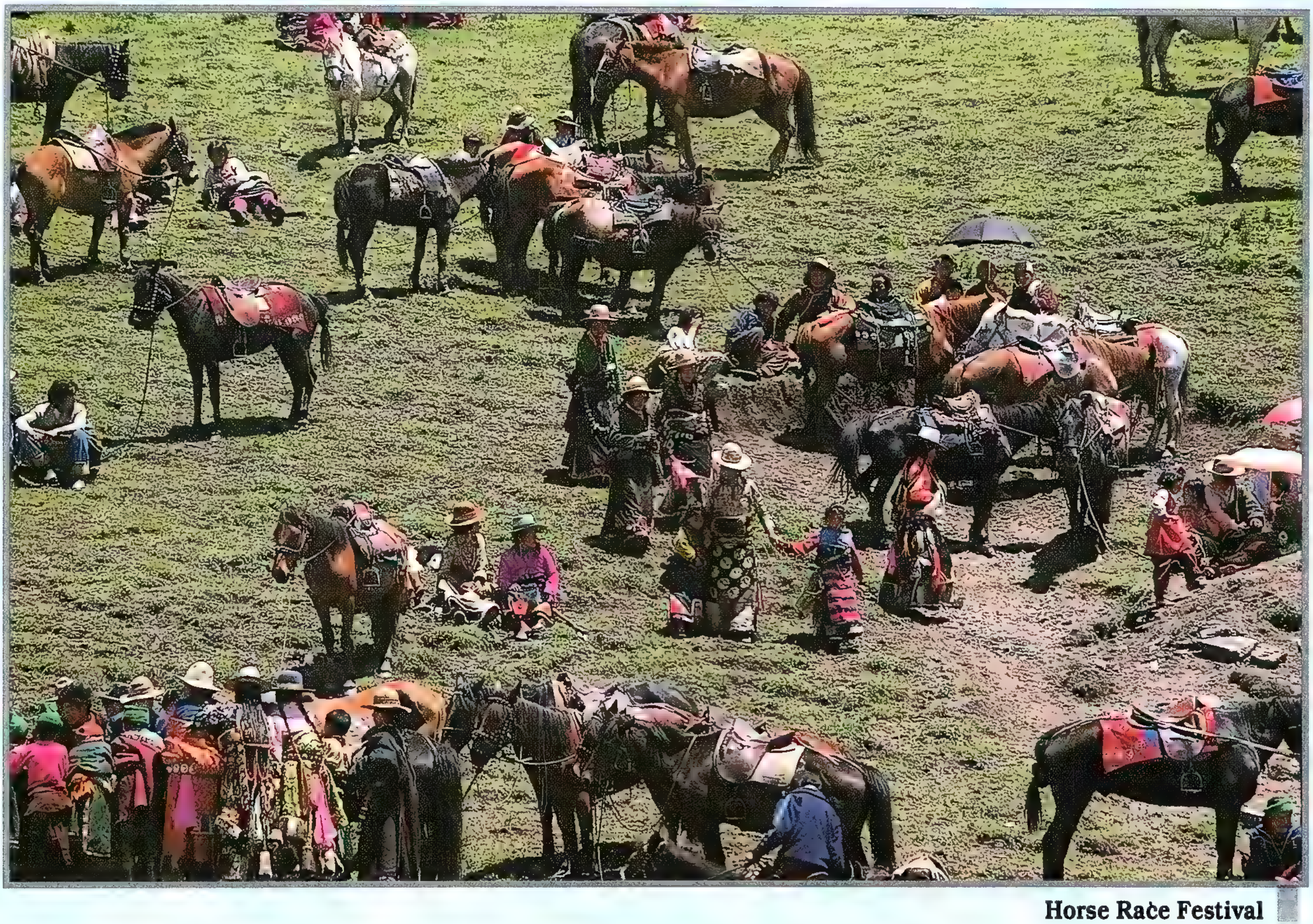


A Tibetan School

In an Aba school, we saw more than twenty adults sitting in a classroom listening attentively to a teacher, books opened in front of them. They were, in fact, learning the Tibetan language. No wonder the teacher was speaking in Tibetan.

The Tibetan people have a long history. They have their own oral language, written language, literature, song, dance, art and religion. In the past the Tibetan culture was taught in the lamaseries.

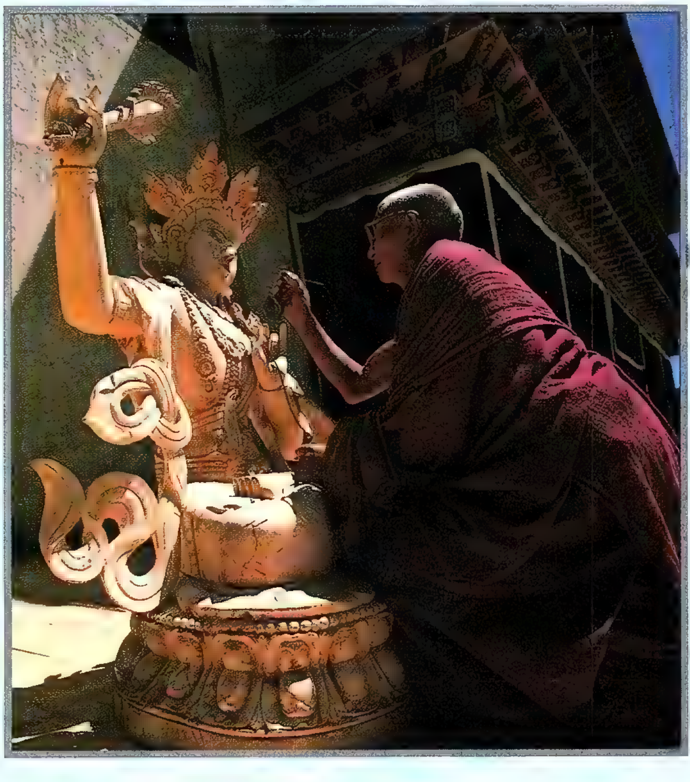
(Photo by Ge Jialin)



Horse Race Festival

In August every year, Tibetan people in the Aba Grassland get together to celebrate the Horse Race Festival. In thick clothes and hats, they sit and chat on the ground, drinking barley brew and enjoy the sunshine. The Horse Race Festival is also known as the "Festival of Summer Joy". The local Tibetans in this area all come and set up tents to celebrate. Some who live quite far away even bring with them their sheep and cattle. The festival lasts for more than ten days.

(Photo by Ge Jialin)

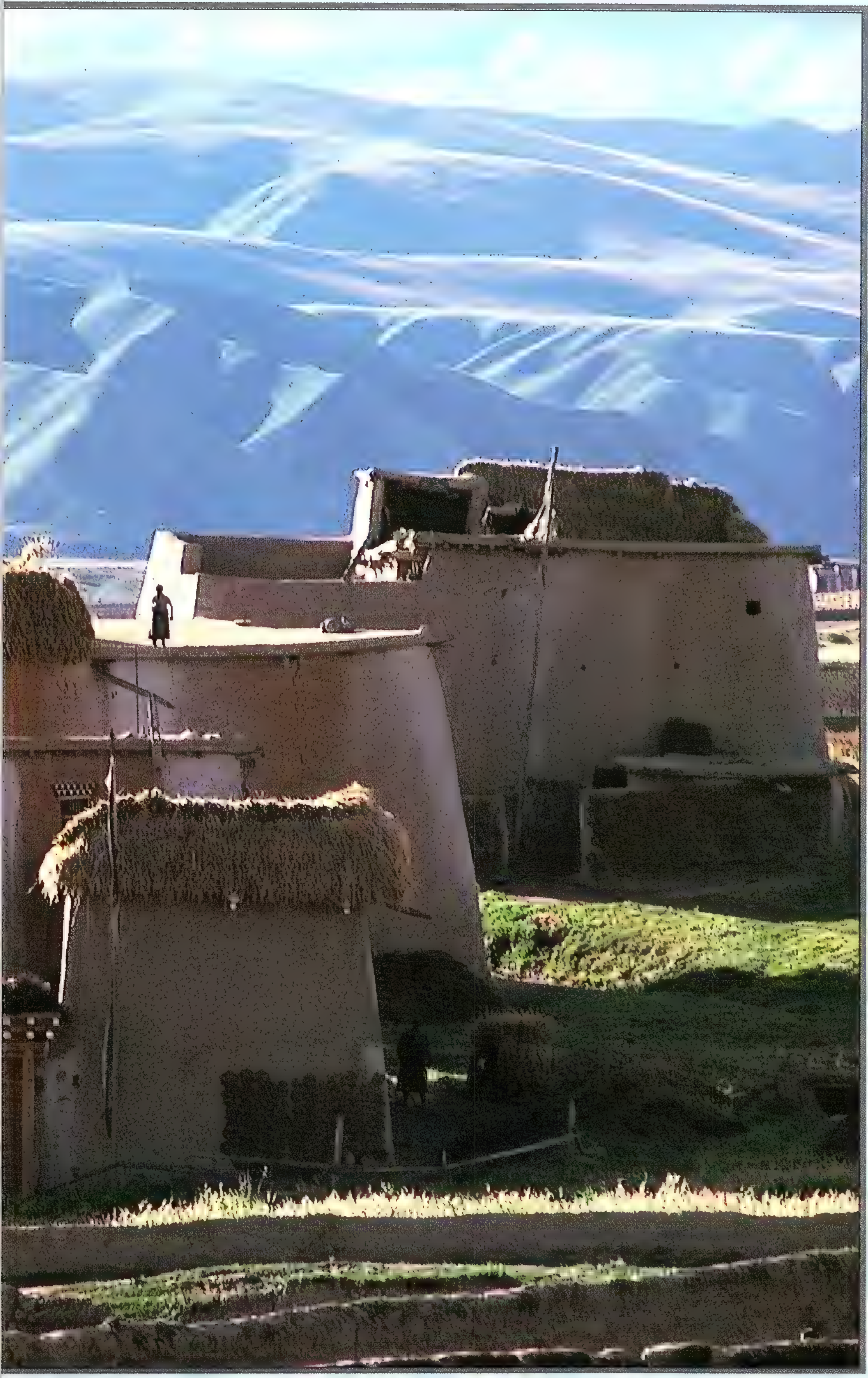


A Lamasery in Aba

We called on a lamasery at Aba. As we entered, we saw an elderly lama meticulously painting a statue of Buddha. He was giving final touches to it so that it could soon be exhibited for worship. His earnestness indicated his devotion to Buddhist art.

The topography of northern Sichuan is similar to that of Tibet. Tibetan people in this area also practise lamaism. Due to the rapid development of Lamaism, a great number of lamaseries have been built. They not only serve as living quarters for lamas but are also important places for promoting Tibetan painting and sculpture.

(Photo by Ge Jialin)



Tibetan Houses in Aba

At the foot of the snow-clad mountains lay some newly built houses. We noticed that they were all built of earth. The roof of one house was flat and as large as a basketball court. It was a place for storing hay and drying grains. Since it was very cold and windy in winter, the enclosure walls of those houses were very high. Each house had one or two small windows. The architectural style of such houses is different from those in Tibet.

The majority of Tibetans used to live on livestock. However, Tibetans in Aba have given up their former occupation. Instead, they have mostly become farmers, getting up when the sun rises and returning home when the sun sets. There is no longer any need to travel about looking for grass.

(Photo by Leong Ka Tai)

Translated by Wang Mingjie

Gansu

Unique Tibetan Customs

Leaving Aba County in Sichuan Province, our reporters entered Têwo County in southern Gansu. From there, they went north and visited other southern Gansu counties such as Wudu, Dangchang, Minxian, Tongwei and Huining.

Located at the southern foot of the western end of the Qinling Mountains and the eastern end of the Minshan Mountains, southern Gansu is characterized by rolling peaks, deep valleys shielded by towering mountains, waterfalls, turbulent rivers and, most interestingly, ruins of ancient plank roads. Major mountain chains include the Lugu, Dieshan and Minshan.

This part of the province is home to a number of ethnic groups, the largest being the Tibetans, including the White Horse and two other branches. In addition, the Yugur people also live here. In Zhugqu, the Tibetans build their homes high on the mountain and live a rather secluded life. The White Horse tribe in the mountain area near the border of Sichuan speaks its own language, has its own religion, and maintains its unique customs.

Picture of "Manjusri" in a Tibetan Home

In the house of a Tibetan family in Laluo Village, Têwo County, we saw in the centre of the wall of the central room pictures of Mao Zedong and Zhu De alongside the photos of Tibetan religious leaders. We learned that here Mao Zedong is believed to be Manjusri, or Bodhisattva of Wisdom. In the 1930s, he and Zhu De came here when they were leading the Red Army on the Long March, after which they became revered figures in this region.

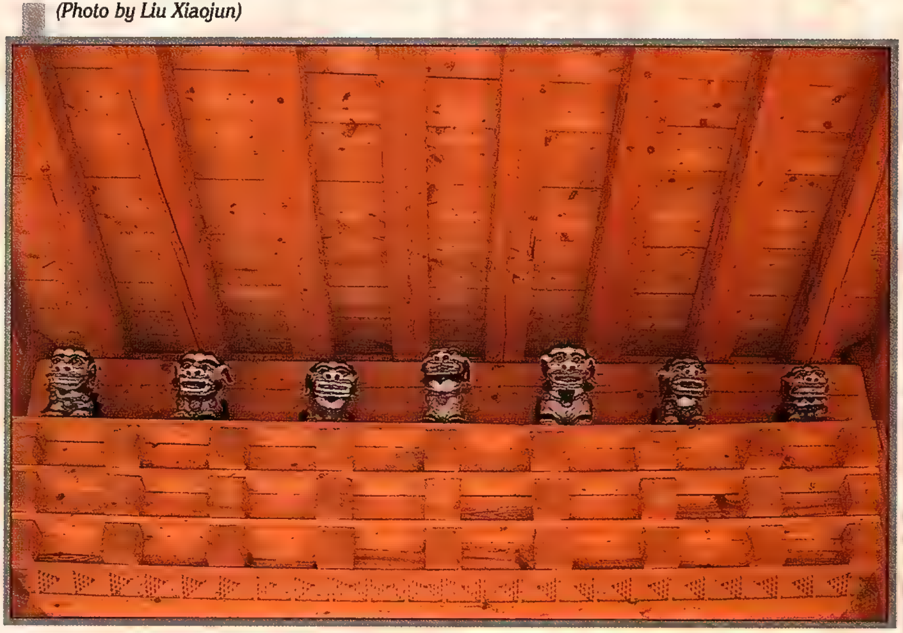
(Photo by Liu Xiaojun)

Lion Sculpture at Dêngkagoin Lamasery

Coming from Sichuan into Têwo in Gansu, one comes to the well-known Tibetan temple, Dêngkagoin Lamasery. A row of small squatting lions carved from wood decorates the door of the wooden temple. How come these ferocious-looking animals all have flat noses?

According to one legend, during construction of the temple under the decree of Songtsan Gambo, a Tibetan ruler of the seventh century, a sharp axe fell from the hand of one of the construction workers when he was working on the temple gate. The falling axe chopped off all the noses of the carved lions, and, ever since then, the lions on temple doors have been carved in this rather unusual fashion.

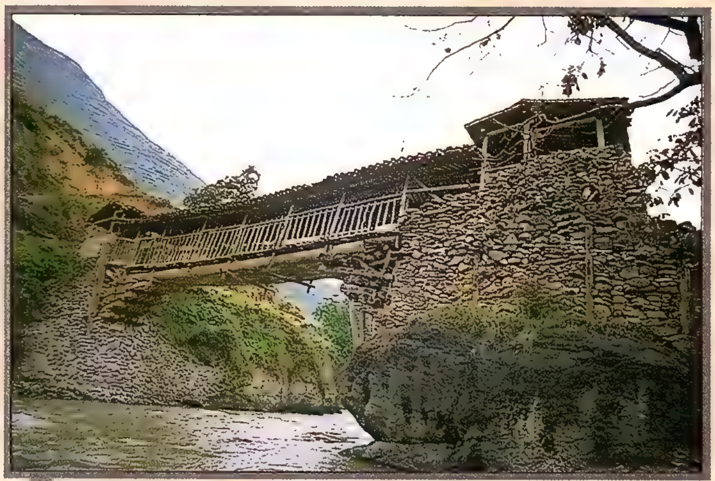
(Photo by Liu Xiaojun)



A Tibetan Girl at Wudu

While walking along a street, I saw a girl standing at her window twisting threads. A companion told me that she was a Tibetan. To my surprise, she was not wearing the kind of Tibetan robe we were familiar with. Tibetans in southern Gansu live in a region far away from the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in an area of comparatively mild climate. Consequently, people here wear different clothes. In fact, the Tibetan clothes here greatly resemble those worn by the Yugurs.

(Photo by Ma Guangyu)



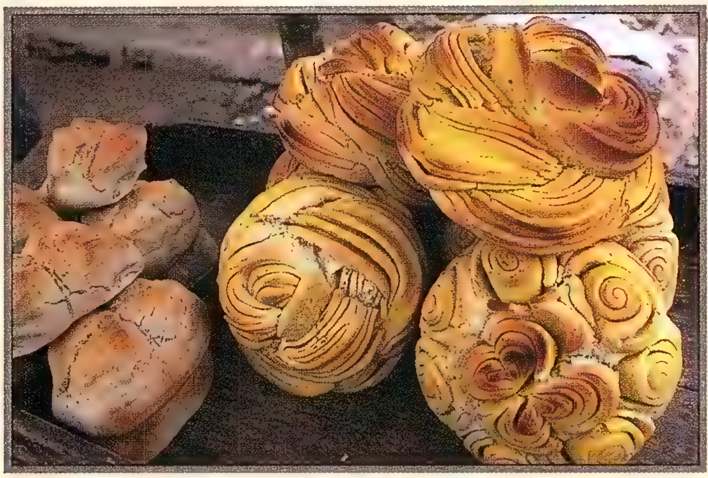
The Shaky Wooden Bridge

When we reached the mountainous area at the end of Wenxian County, we found that Zhugqu County was not very far ahead.

To enter a nearby village, we had to cross a wooden bridge spanning the Baishui River. The piers at each end of the bridge are made of piled-up stones, while the bridge itself is a wooden structure with an earthen surface. The structure is covered with a tiled roof, making it convenient for pedestrians to rest or stay out of the rain. The architecture looks similar to the Dong's Wind and Rain Bridge, except that this one does not have a pointed top.

This type of bridge is usually built at a narrow place along the river as the bridge lacks intermediate supports. Even though this bridge is not very long, it shook slightly as we walked along, giving us a breathtaking experience.

(Photo by Wong Chung Fai)



Big Bread from Dangchang

Food stands in the streets of Dangchang County are well stocked with home-made bread, crispy and fragrant. The great variety of this delicious food certainly arouses the appetite of any passer-by.

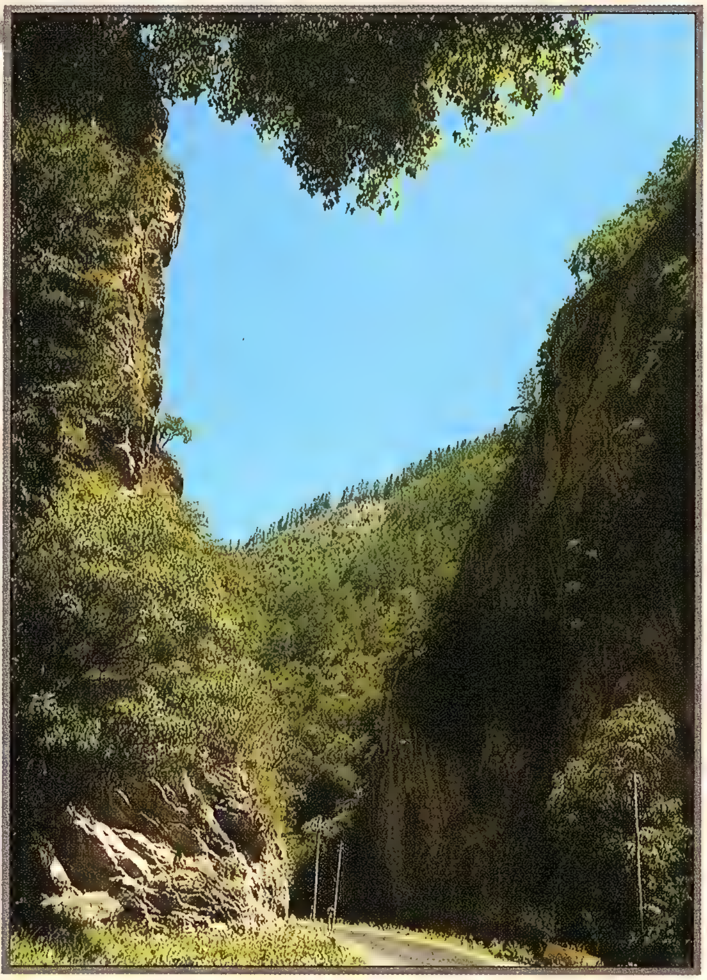
This part of southern Gansu lies west of the Yellow River, where, in September, farmers harvest the wheat and maize, two crops which give rise to the popularity of big bread.

(Photo by Liu Xiaojun)

The Natural Barrier at Lazikou

A highway pierces the mountains at the famous pass known as Lazikou. This once natural barrier has now given way to a wide road. Lazikou is a pass in the Minshan Mountains which extend for several hundred kilometres along the border between Sichuan and Gansu. They seem to be a merciless giant wall, cutting off communications, and Lazikou is just like a window in this wall, providing a strategic opening for north-south traffic. The turbulent Lazi River passes through the valley, its waves slapping against the cliffs. Half a century ago, the Red Army made their way through the pass on their march to northern Shaanxi.

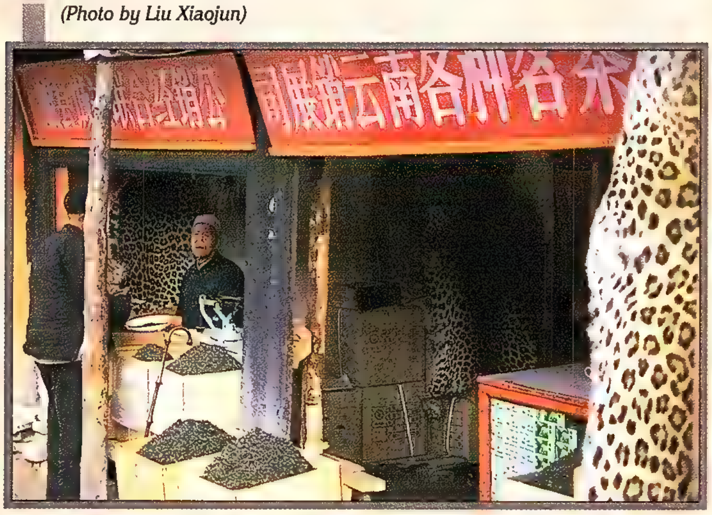
(Photo by Wang Jie)



Herbal Medicine Stores in Minxian

Herbal medicine stores line the streets in the county seat of Minxian. Since ancient times the fertile land and the cool, wet climate have proved ideal for herbal medicines. Actually, the rich herbs have given the place a reputation as the "Home of Chinese Medicinal Herbs". Since business people engaged in the pharmaceutical trade come from all parts of the country for herbs, it is no wonder that there are so many stores selling them.

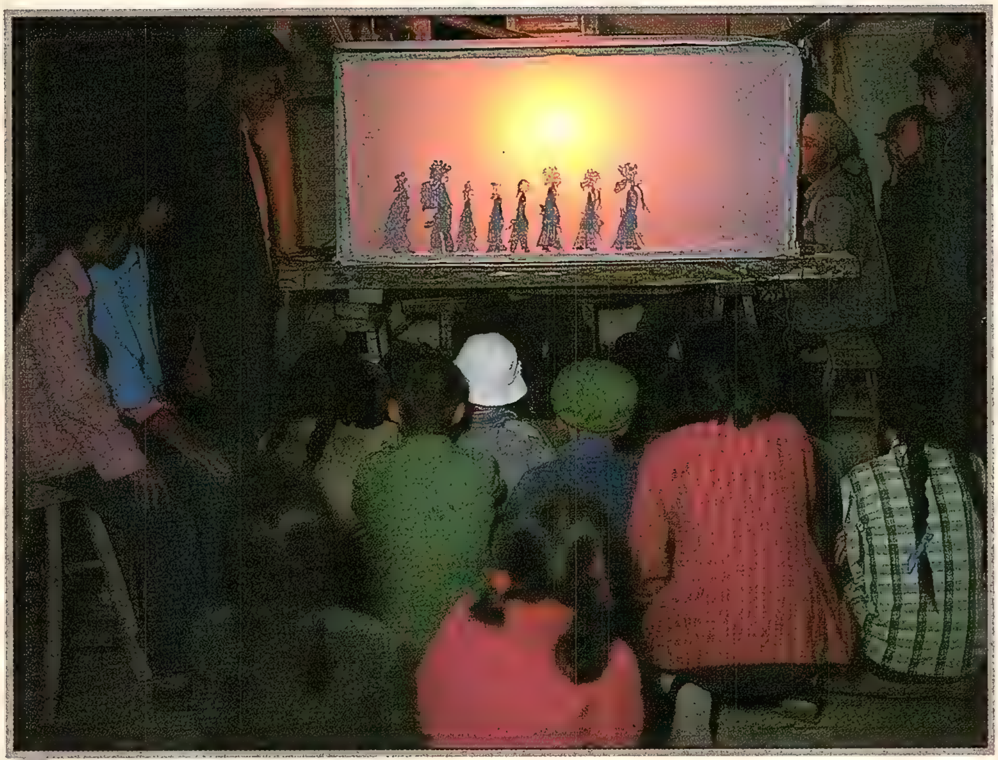
(Photo by Liu Xiaojun)



Window Decorations in Tongwei County

Wooden lattice windows on houses in Tongwei, without exception, are all colourfully decorated with paper-cuts. Folk arts in Tongwei County are highly developed and local women are renowned for their skill in paper-cutting. Every piece on the windows is a product of their unique mastery of this traditional folk art form.

(Photo by Liu Xiaojun)



Shadow Play in a Remote Village

While in Tongwei, I was told, "You must see the shadow play performed at Cuijiahe Village."

So, at dusk one day, after walking several miles, we arrived there to see the leather-silhouette show, popularly referred to as a shadow play, performed by farmer-artist Cui Zhenrong.

This remote village has no electricity, and the villagers have nothing to do in the evenings. With the help of a traditional oil gas lamp, Cui Zhenrong performs shadow plays which have become the most interesting activity for the villagers not only in his village but from neighbouring villages as well.

(Photo by Liu Xiaojun)

Operas from the Land of Loess

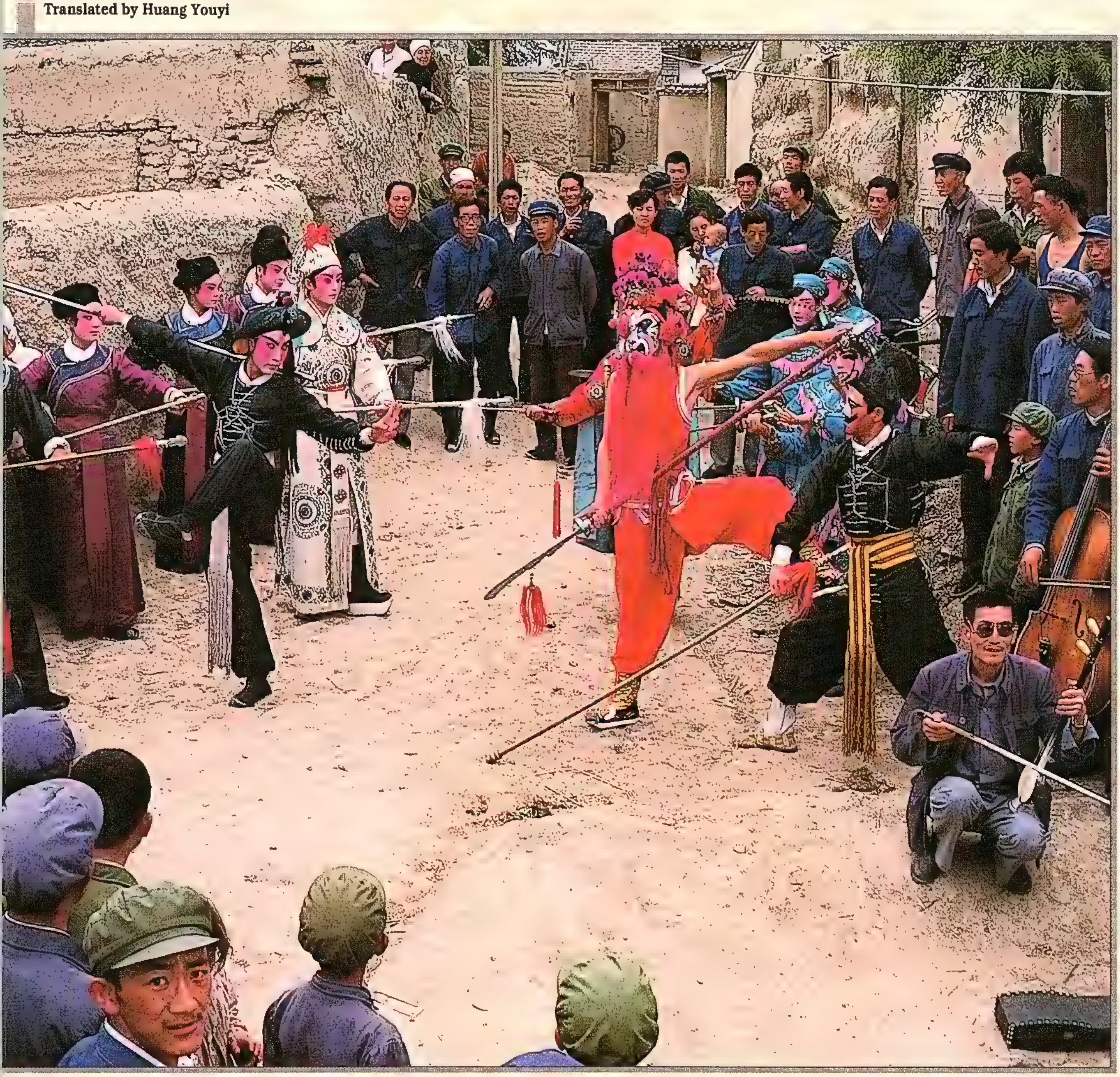
The solemn and stirring tunes of the popular songs commonly categorized as the "Wind from the Northwest" have been very popular in recent years. These songs combine the tunes of a folk song called *Xintianyou* and the *Qinqiang* opera, both common in the northwestern province of Shaanxi. "Wind from the Northwest" expresses a strong and unconstrained sentiment associated with the loess plateau.

Qinqiang (meaning tune of Qin) operas are an indispensable part of the lives of those who live in Gansu where it borders Shaanxi. When a *Qinqiang* opera troupe performed in Huining County, a huge crowd of people turned out. They were totally captured by the singing and performing.

Huining is where several branches of the Red Army joined forces towards the end of the Long March. The ground on which the opera was staged is exactly the spot where the Red Army camped.

(Photo by Liu Xiaojun)

Translated by Huang Youyi



ALONG THE ROUTE OF THE
LONG MARCH

Ningxia

Varied Landform, Colourful Moslem Customs

When our reporters left Gansu, they came to Guyuan in southern Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. Strategically located in the eastern part of the Liupan Mountains, since ancient times Guyuan has been a place hotly contested in wars.

Though not large, Ningxia has a great variety of topographical features. There are mountains, plains, basins, highlands, loess hills, deserts and rivers. Of these, the loess hills are the most prominent.

The population of the Hui (Moslem) people in China is about 7,220,000. One of the ethnic minorities, they are found in every province and in all large cities. Among the provinces and regions, Ningxia has the largest group of Huis, about 1,320,000. The early Hui people settled in Ningxia during the Tang Dynasty (618-907). Later, during the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), large numbers of Arabs and Persians believing in Islam came to Ningxia together with the Mongol forces returning from a western expedition. They stayed here and took up farming.

To this day, they still maintain their traditional lifestyles. They keep their houses clean and tidy, and they pay great attention to their personal hygiene.

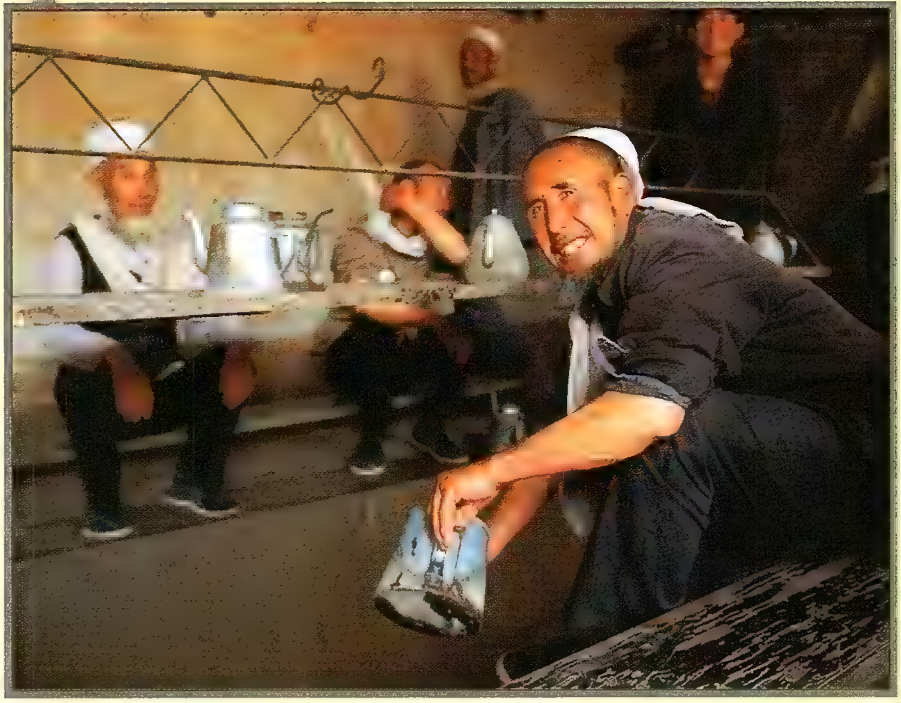
Moslem Showers

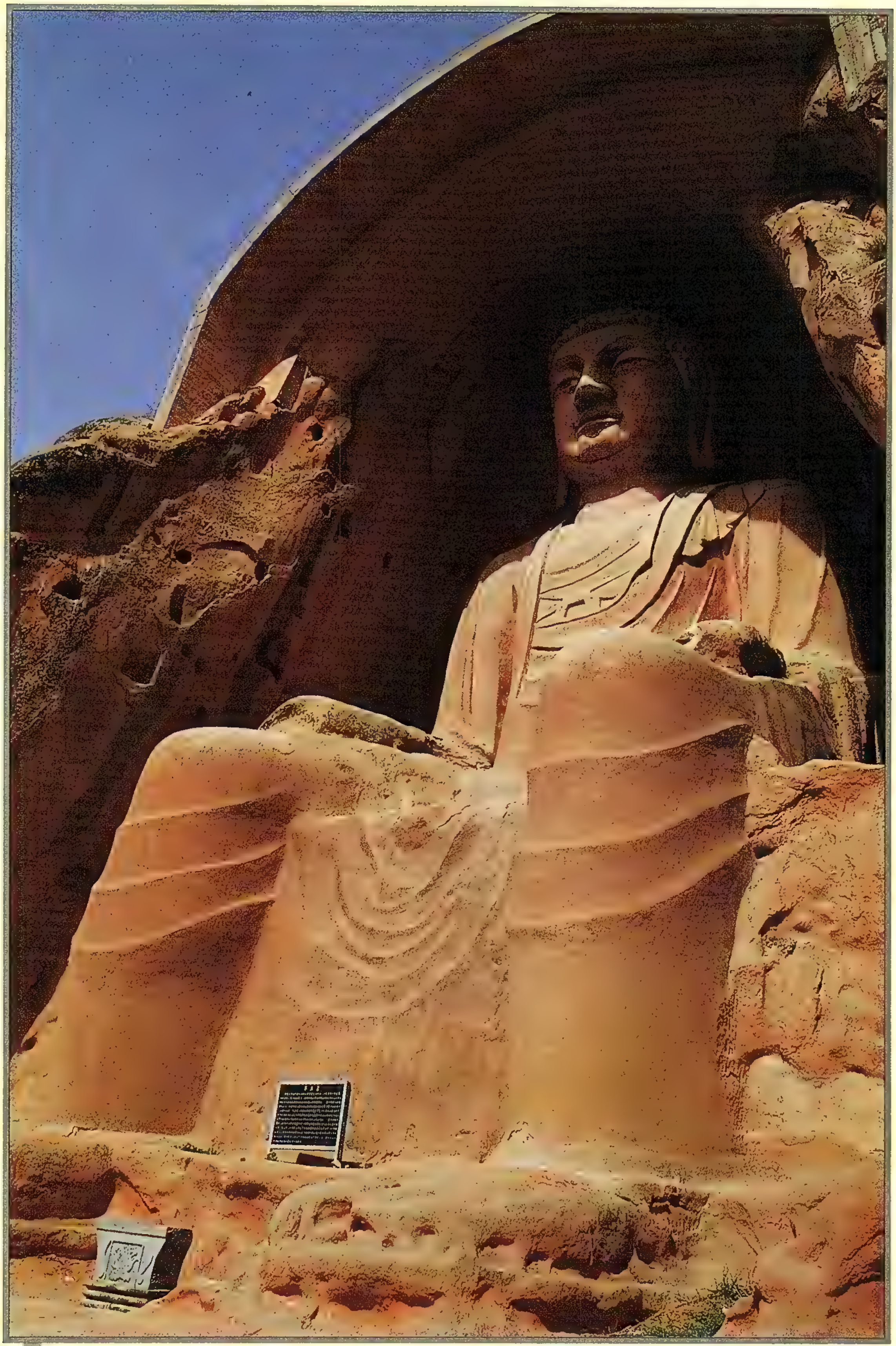
Common street sights in Guyuan are the white hats that people wear and big pancakes, the size of a pot lid, which are sold in all food stands and restaurants.

Behind the door of each Hui House a bucket hangs from a beam with a culvert underneath on the ground. This is where people wash and take showers. When taking a shower, they follow a certain set procedure. Usually, they start with washing the head and face, then move onto their arms, shoulders and finally down to their feet.

When the Hui people wash their hands or face, they like to use kettles instead of basins because, by custom, they prefer washing with running water. The kettle for washing is shaped rather like a big teapot. First introduced by the Arabs during the Tang Dynasty, it is an indispensable household item of Chinese Huis.

(Photo by Hu Wugong)





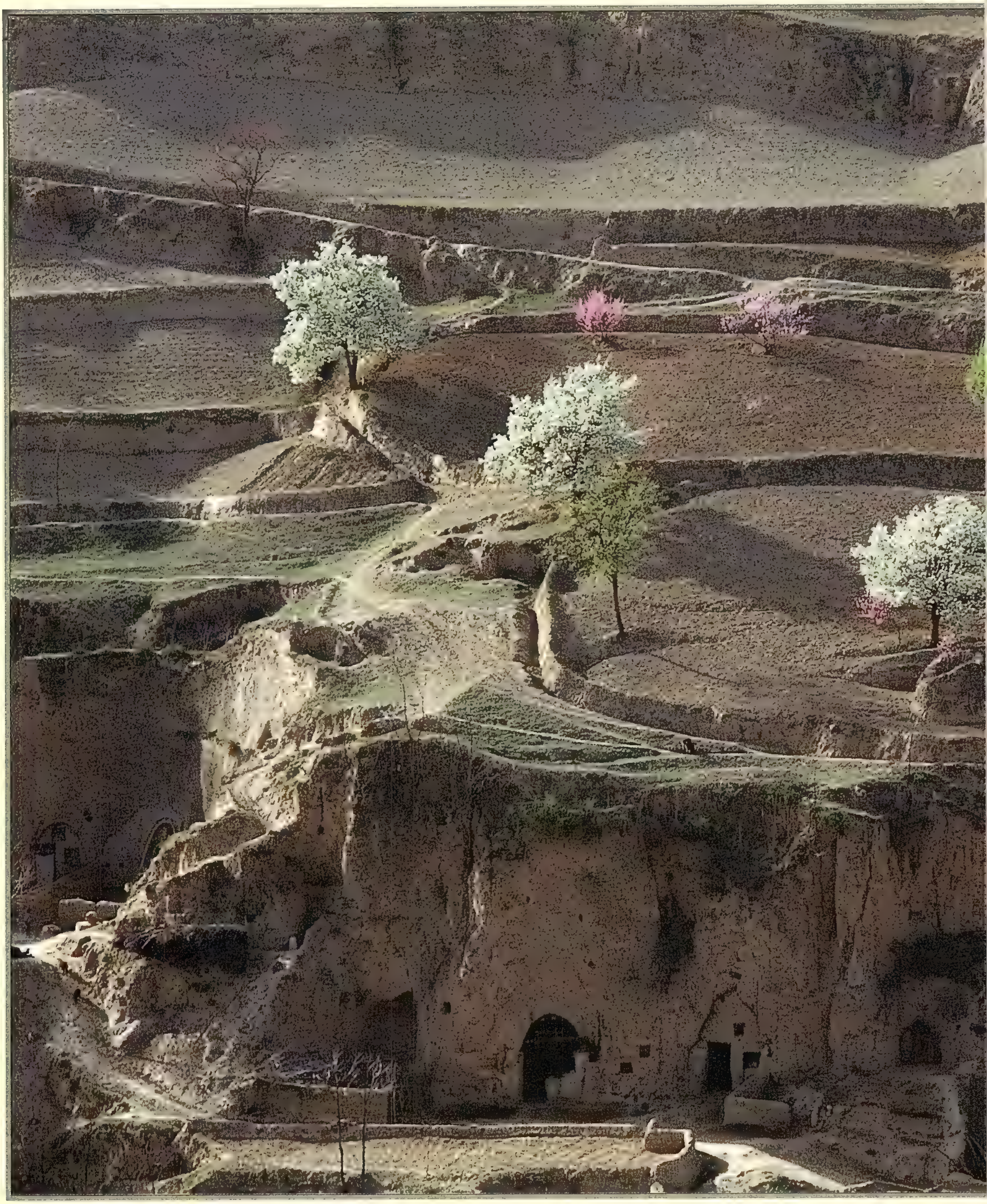
Grottoes on Mount Sumeru

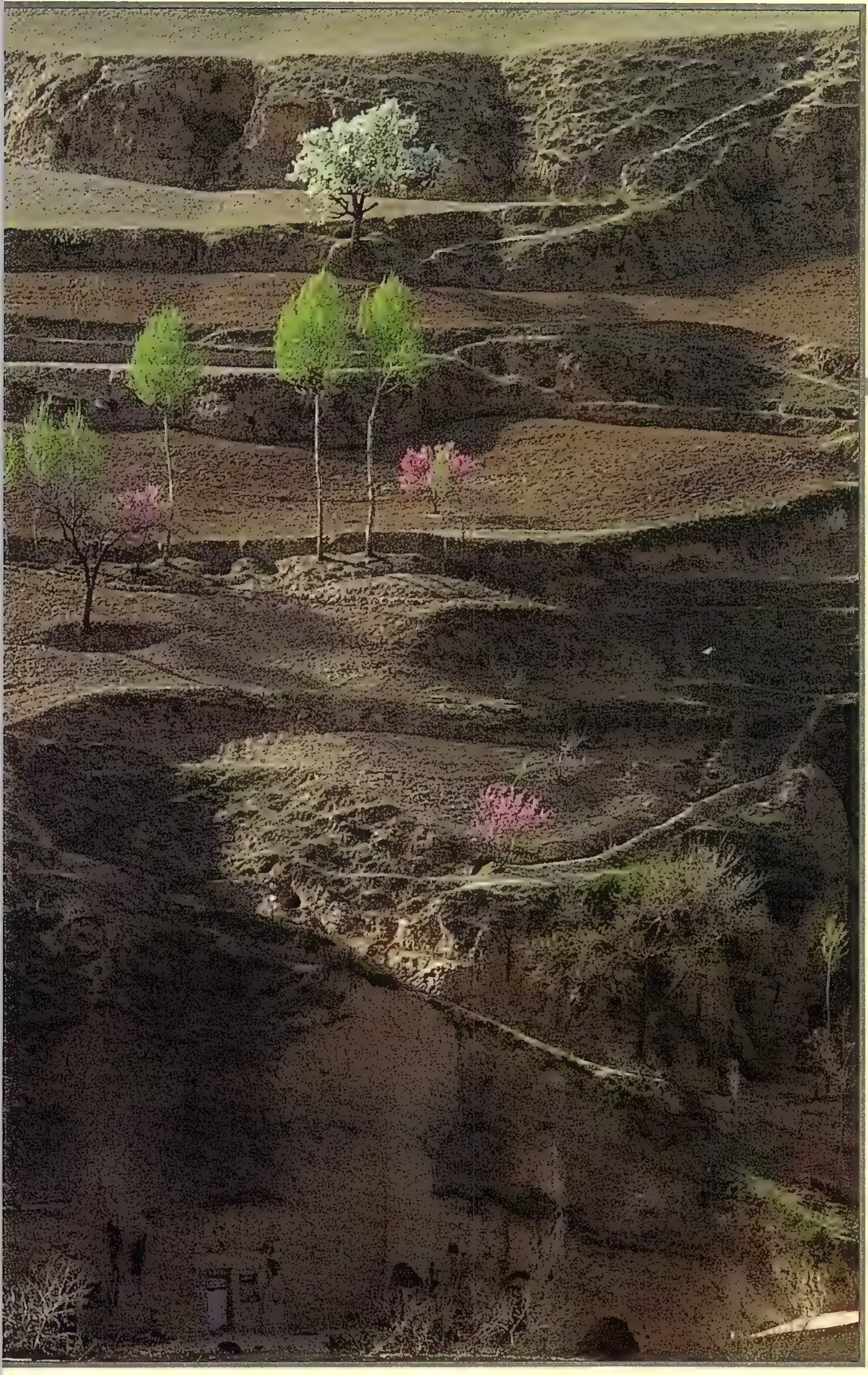
One morning we drove fifty-five kilometres and came to Mount Sumeru, northwest of the county seat of Guyuan. Here, cliffs on eight mountains are dotted with 130 grottoes.

In No. 5 Grotto stands a 20.6-metre-high statue of Maitreya or "Future Buddha" which was carved during the Tang Dynasty. The inside of the grotto was chiselled into a space resembling a square temple hall. The statue of the Buddha, with high nose and deeply-set eyes, sits in the middle of the hall. He seems totally removed from the living world and oblivious to the visitors.

It is difficult to decide when construction of the grottoes really began, but their style and the characteristics of the Buddha statues suggest that they were opened about 1,500 years ago, between 471 and 499 during the Northern Wei Dynasty.

(Photo by Hu Wugong)





Green Willow Shrubs on the Yellow Earth

We went from Guyuan to Wuqi in northern Shaanxi through the county towns of Huachi and Qingyang in Gansu. The 350 kilometres of asphalt road meanders across hills and valleys. The willows that had been cut last year were now budding again, their tender green leaves against the background of yellow soil creating a scene unique to this place.

The willows in this region are economic plants. Every spring, people cut them to make woven containers and utensils.

(Photo by Hu Wugong)

Translated by Huang Youyi

Shaanxi

Old Traditions of the Han Nationality on the Loess Land

After leaving Guyuan in Ningxia, our reporters went eastward and entered Wuqi in northern Shaanxi, then traversed the loess plateau to Zhidan, Yan'an, Yanchang and Luochuan.

The loess land of northern Shaanxi is an important component part of China's loess plateau. It slopes down from northwest to southeast. Its deep layer of loess soil is cut into tiers upon tiers of ravines with depths ranging from several dozen metres to over one hundred. The ridges between the ravines often become the demarcation lines of the ravines, and, as they resemble walls, they are known as "walls of yellow soil".

The loess is perfect for building the cave houses which are home to over forty million people in the four major areas of the loess plateau. The *yaodong* or cave dwellings are naturally cool in summer and warm in winter due to the inability of the loess to conduct heat.

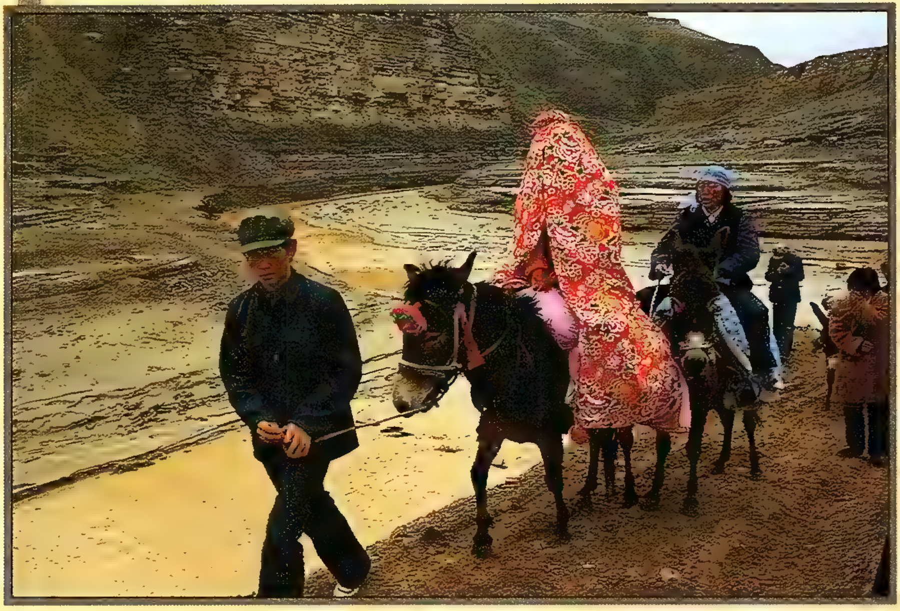
Now and then on their trip the reporters heard the loud, sonorous music of *suona*, a woodwind instrument also called a Chinese cornet. *Xintianyou*, a resounding tune popular in northern Shaanxi and frequently played on the *suona*, portrays the bold and unrestrained character of the people living on the loess soil, people who still retain the most ancient traditions of the Han nationality.

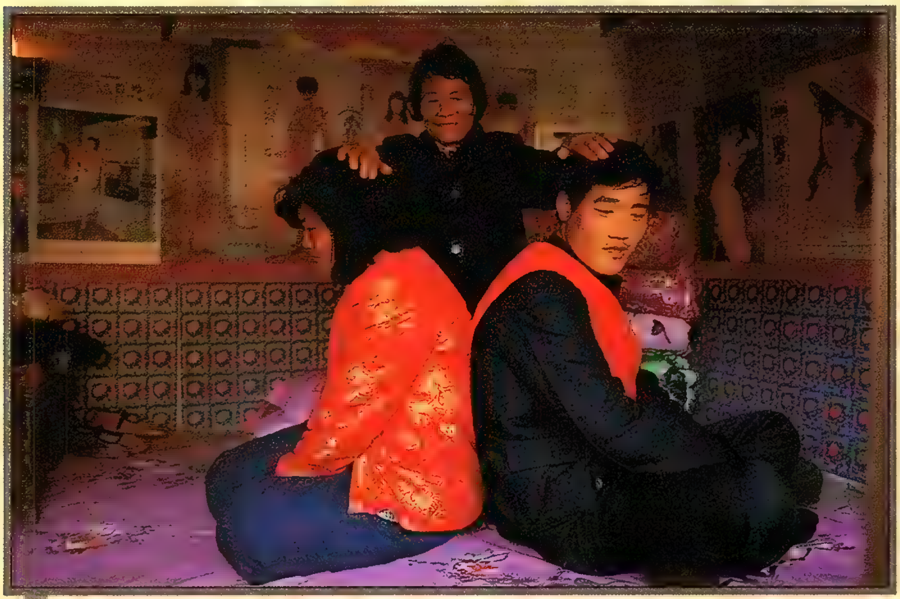
Wedding Customs

As soon as our car entered Wuqi County in Shaanxi, we encountered a procession slowly making its way with two *suona* players leading the marchers. A mule walked in the middle of the procession carrying a young woman who was covered from head to foot with a piece of printed cloth. As it turned out, this was a wedding procession, and the nearly invisible girl was the bride.

Two days before her wedding, a bride begins taking less food and water so that she need not go to the toilet and be ridiculed by others during the wedding procession. And, no matter if it is winter or summer, the bride must wear a cotton-padded coat. In this way, it is said, she will enjoy greater happiness in her married life.

(Photo by Hu Wugong)





Making the Bed in the Bridal Chamber

When the guests go home, an elderly woman on the bridegroom's side begins making the bed. First, she puts the cotton-padded mattress over the quilts, then she turns them over and tucks red Chinese dates, peanuts and dried longan under the mattress at all four corners, a wish that the bride will soon give birth to a son who will bring honour and glory to the family. After making the bed, the elderly woman combs the bride's hair while the bride and bridegroom sit back to back. The bride's long hair covers the top of the bridegroom's head. Then the pair cross their hands and each drinks a cup of wine. These gestures are a promise to love each other as long as they live.

(Photo by Hu Wugong)

Singing in Zhidan

From Wuqi County we drove to Zhidan County. Formerly named Bao'an, it was renamed Zhidan in memory of General Liu Zhidan of the Red Army who was born there. Through the car windows we saw rolling mountains and deep ravines receding rapidly behind us. Ahead, a scene of farmers working in the fields, then the tune *Xintianyou* reached our ears. In the vast but sparsely-populated northwest China, this tune carries far and wide over the mountains. Women were seen turning their weaving wheels or washing at a riverside. In the wilds, herdsmen were resting while their cattle and sheep grazed nearby. Sometimes, the herders would sing to give vent to their feelings.

(Photo by Hu Wugong)

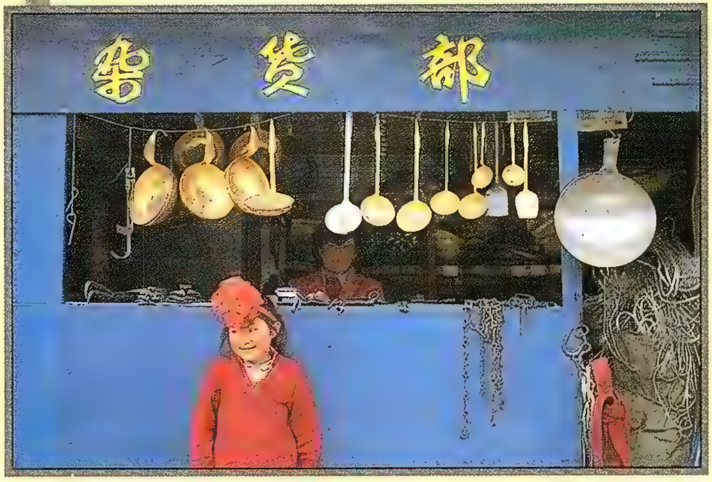
Region Short of Timber

Most of the grocery stores in Wuqi are built of iron sheets covered with a layer of coloured paint. Among the goods are copper ladles and dippers, sparkling in the sunshine.

Although we usually see wooden ladles or ladles made from gourds or coconut shells, Wuqi is short of timber and has no coconuts, so its ladles and dippers are made of copper.

Ladles and dippers are very useful here where water, fetched from far away, is stored in buckets for later use.

(Photo by Hu Wugong)

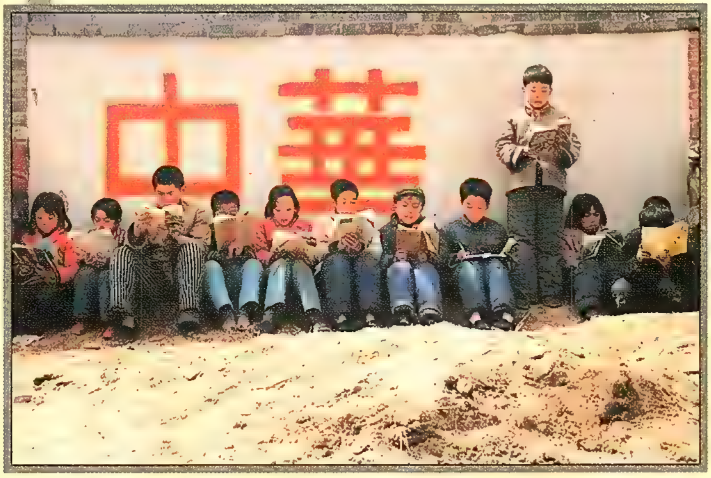


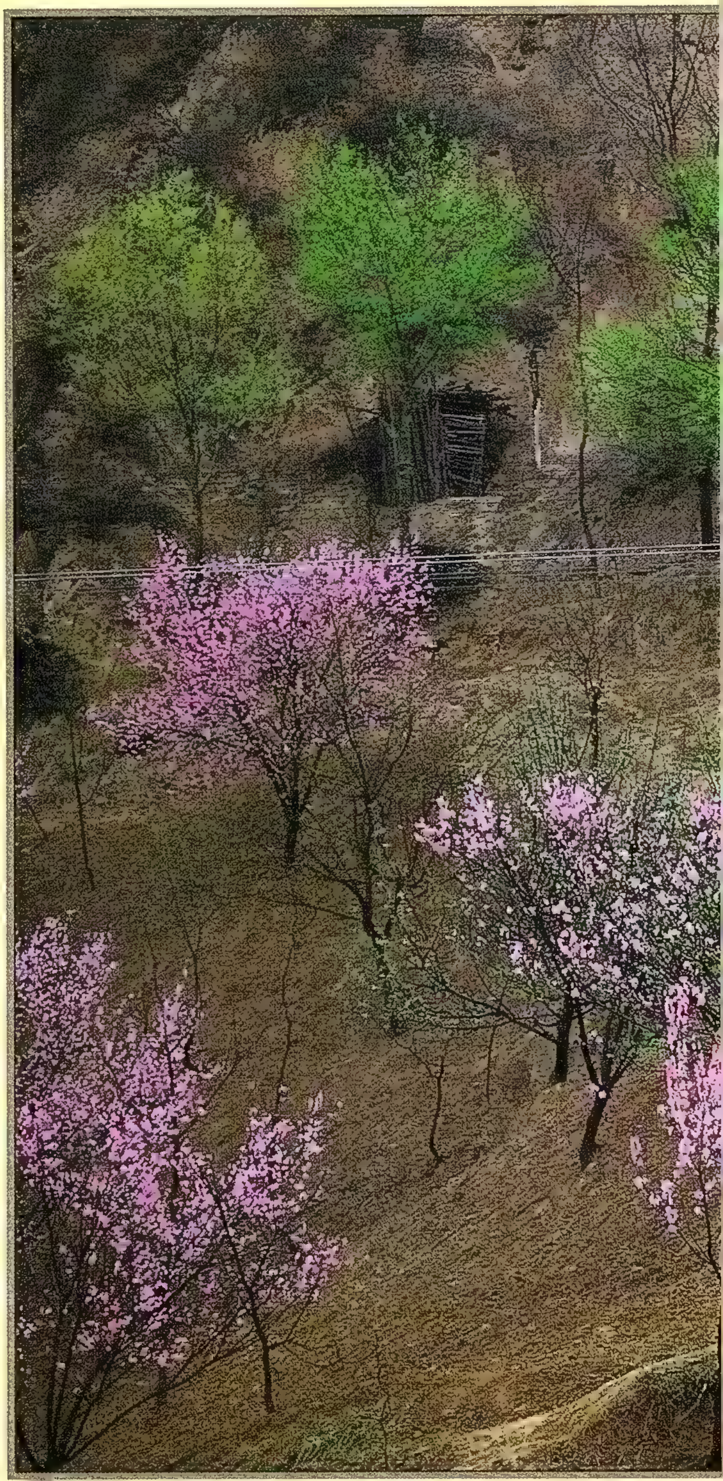
Schoolchildren in Yan'an

It is early spring and still chilly, but in the bright sunshine it is warmer outside than inside. These children prefer to read leaning in a row against the outer wall of their classroom.

Yan'an is an old city with a long history. In January 1937, the Red Army entered the city and the Long March formally ended.

(Photo by Hei Jianbang)





Utilizing Natural Gas

From Yan'an we drove eastward for 75 kilometres and arrived in Yanchang County. It was springtime, and pink peach blossoms bloomed between the caves. It had just rained, and the air was moist and fresh. The mountains and ridges were lovely in their spring foliage.

In the rivers along the highway, oil pumping machines were roaring, and from each machine came a long, slender plastic pipe leading to the caves. However, it was not oil in the ground but natural gas being diverted into the caves for lighting and cooking.

Yongping of Yanchang County was the site where several groups of the Red Army joined forces and were reorganized in September 1935. The sports ground of the Oil Mine Middle School was the site of the reorganizing meeting.

(Photo by Hu Wugong)

Drawing a Horse to Greet the New Year

When we arrived in the county seat of Luochuan, the Year of the Horse had just begun, inspiring a farmer-painter who was standing on a makeshift framework drawing a big, vivid picture of a horse. This added a festive touch to the quiet county. The painting carries the good meaning "to win instant success upon arrival".

Fengjia Village, located ten kilometres northeast of Luochuan, was the site of the "Luochuan Meeting" convened in August 1937 when the Red Army passed through the area. Among the generals and leaders attending the meeting were Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Zhu De and Liu Bocheng.

(Photo by Alfred Ko)

Translated by Anne Yan

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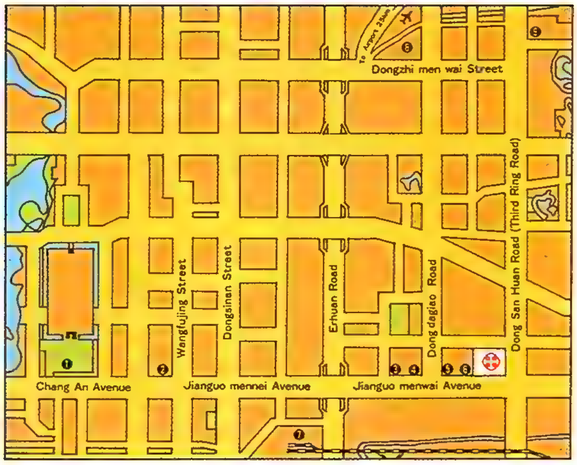
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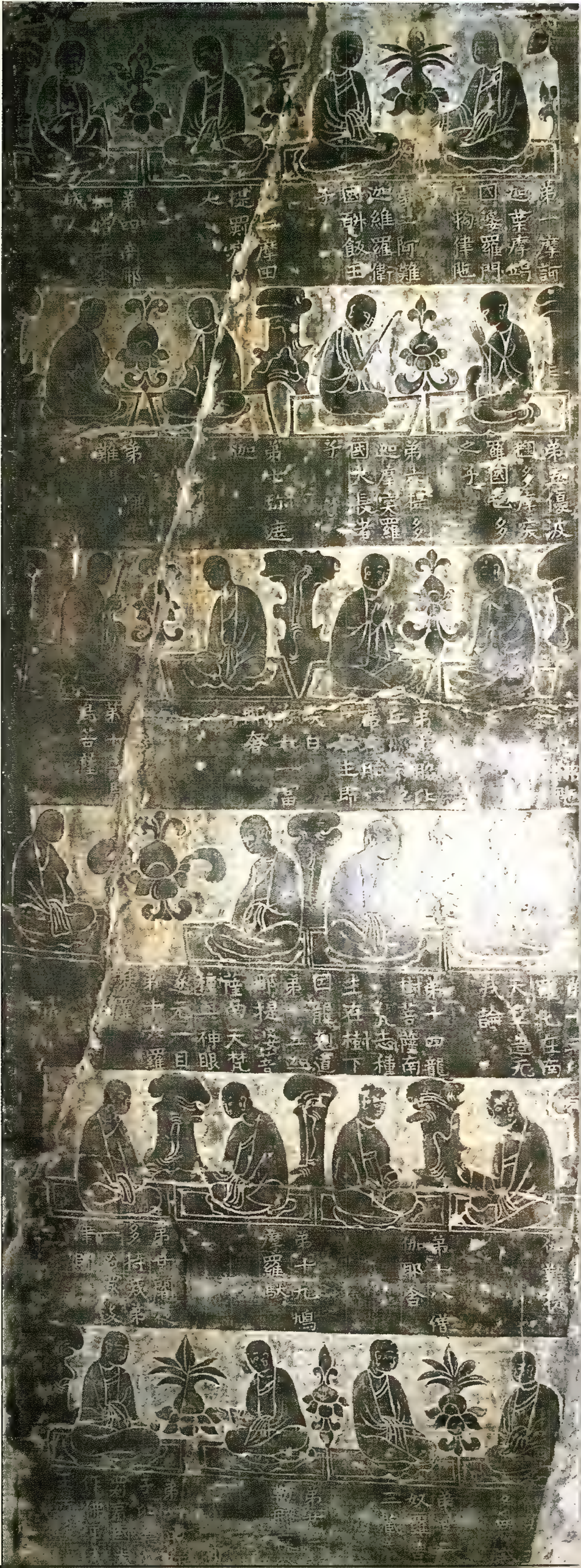
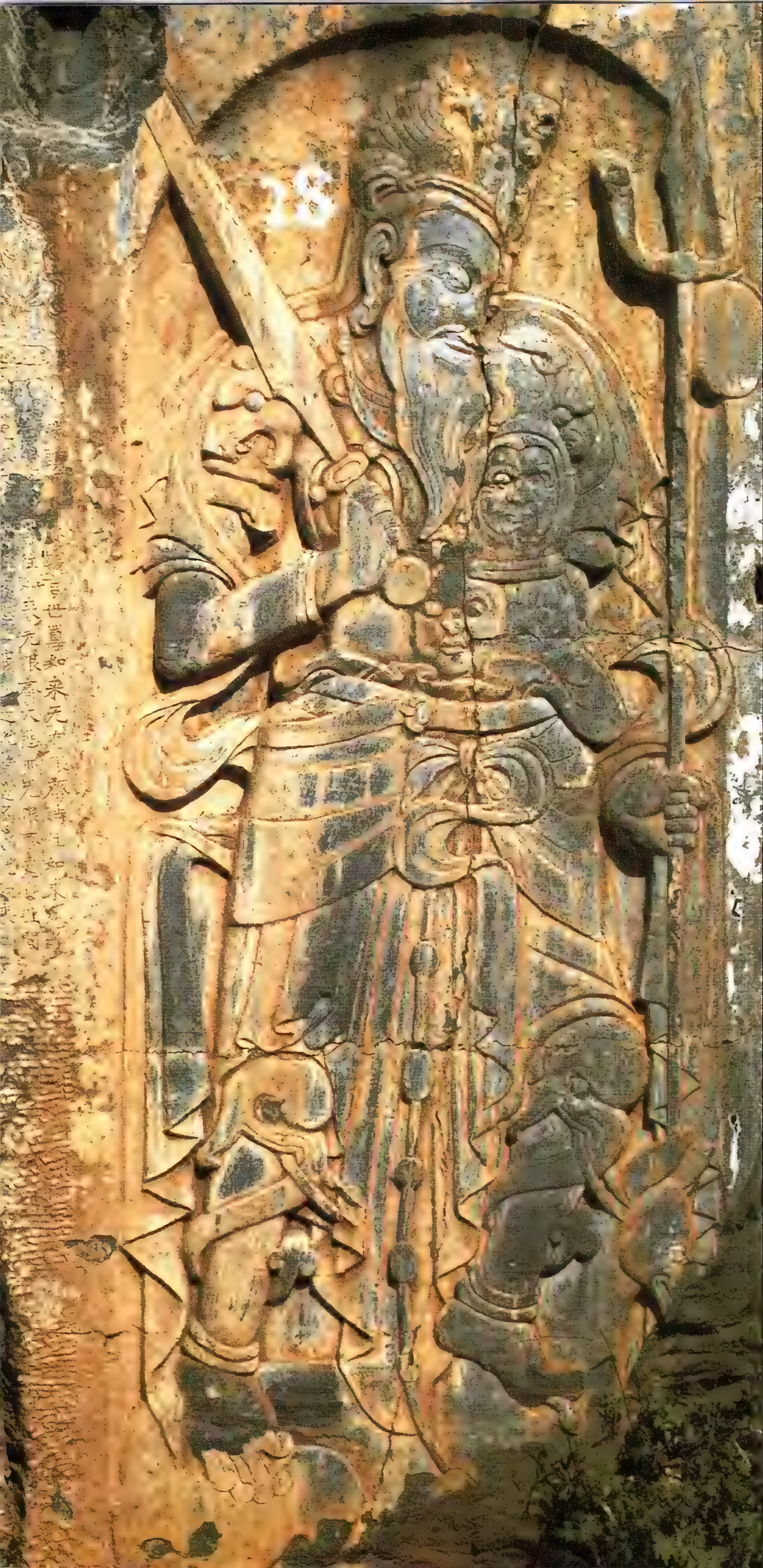
Baoshan Monastery's Carvings in Stone

PHOTOS BY WANG MENGXIANG
ARTICLE BY GUO YITIAN



The interior of Dazhusheng Grotto is carved with bas-reliefs of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas, each one different.



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About twenty kilometres southwest of Anyang in northern Henan rises Mount Baoshan. Between its northern and southern peaks lies a valley, the site of Baoshan Monastery. On the approach to the monastery two stone stupas reputed to be the oldest of their type still extant in China — they date from 563 — stand only four metres apart. Each about 2.5 metres tall, the stupas rather resemble sedan chairs stranded on the mountainside. The mass of their structure is left totally plain but simple, exquisite carvings of the Buddhist wheel and jewel-like motifs adorn the pointed top. One of them is said to contain the ashes of the celebrated Buddhist master Dao Ping. He it was who founded the monastery in 546 towards the end of the period known as the Northern Dynasties (386-581).

Many stonemasons came to build the new monastery. With the advent of the Sui dynasty (581-618), they flocked there in ever greater numbers as the Buddhist faith took hold and expanded under imperial patronage. Although relatively short, this dynasty saw a massive outpouring of religious art.

In 591 Ling Yu, the abbot of the time, was summoned into the presence of Emperor Wendi at Chang'an, the Sui capital (now Xi'an in Shaanxi). The emperor had hoped to be initiated into the Buddhist precepts by Ling Yu and become his disciple, but the monk — although he willingly told the emperor of Buddha's teachings — refused to accept him as a disciple. Impressed, the emperor placed Ling Yu in charge of all Buddhist monks in China and sent him back to his monastery with three hundred rolls of silk with which to renovate the buildings. Wendi also renamed the monastery Lingquan, the first character being taken from the monk's name, the second meaning 'spring', hoping in this way to immortalize Ling Yu (although the monastery has since reverted to its original name).

From that time onwards, thousands of craftsmen and stonemasons came to work at the monastery, excavating grottoes, niches and alcoves in the cliffs and hillsides. Nobody knows how many there were exactly, but the illustrious Ling Yu was certainly responsible for drawing them, since his reputation grew to the point that people referred to him simply as 'Buddha'. Nor did this surge of activity stop with the fall of the Sui dynasty. Buddhism continued to flourish for quite some time in China, particularly under the following Tang dynasty (618-907). The rock around the monastery was worked, hewn and sculpted over a period of six centuries altogether — roughly until the end of the Song dynasty in the thirteenth century.

Packed into a Limited Space

In this, the craftsmen were following the tradition established by the Northern Wei dynasty (386-534) which was responsible for some of China's most outstanding cave-temple complexes: the Yungang Grottoes at Datong in Shanxi, started between 460 and 465, and the Longmen Caves near Luoyang in Henan, southwest of Baoshan, started in 494.

Among the around two hundred grottoes and niches which dot both sides of the valley, on a cliff south of Baoshan Monastery there is a larger cave known as the Dazhusheng Grotto. It is almost square in shape — 3.4 metres long and wide, 2.6 metres high. The low arched entrance is flanked by relief carvings of dvarapalas, fierce guardians of the faith. Measuring almost two metres high, these are warriors in armour with a trident in one hand, a sword in the other. Nevertheless, their militant bearing is somewhat mitigated by their kindly smiles.

Inside, the dark grotto has niches on three sides, all containing Buddhas sitting cross-legged, some attended by Bodhisattvas and disciples. The grotto walls are carved in bas-relief with more than fifty figures, including Gautama Buddha and the Maitreya (the Buddha of the Future). The carvings are executed simply, but each figure displays a different expression and pose. Some sit on a hassock in meditation, others pray or preach, some facing a stylized lotus. The bands of figures are interspersed with extracts from the sutras.

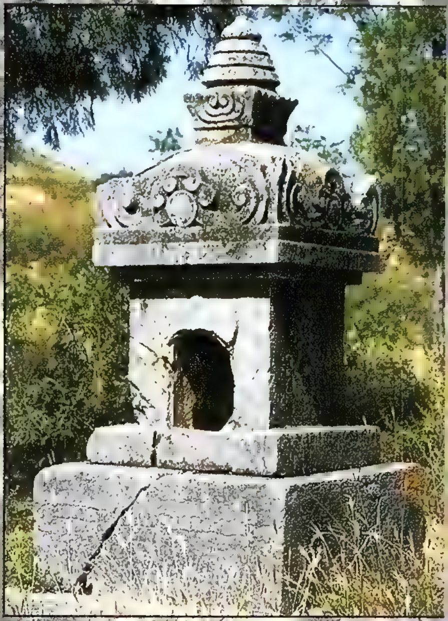
On the ceiling of this cave are lotus designs surrounded by dancing devas or apsaras. The real surprise here is to see so many deities and other figures crowded into such a compact area, but with such aesthetic effect.

Alcoves in Tang Style

With the notable exception of Dazhusheng Grotto, most of the grottoes are in fact merely shallow alcoves. Some contain the ashes and bones of leading monks and abbots from different periods of the monastery's history. At the base of a typical alcove there is a stupa or pagoda-shaped relief carving decorated with jewel-like motifs like those on the two free-standing stupas. A row of warriors 'supports' the upper part of the stupa. Although tiny, these figures manage to convey the impression of immense strength. The small niche at the base usually contains a statue of the monk to whose memory it is dedicated.

There is an interesting story connected with these alcoves. A dowager empress of the Tang dynasty is said to have suffered from a malignant boil on her neck which the imperial physicians were unable to cure. A monk from Baoshan Monastery — who also happened to be highly skilled in medicine — heard about this. He journeyed to Chang'an and rapidly brought about a complete cure in the dowager empress' condition. The emperor of course was overjoyed and wanted to shower him with gold and titles, but the monk declined, asking the emperor merely to be good enough to restore Baoshan Monastery. This request was granted and, not long afterwards, as a result of the imperial decree, the number of craftsmen swelled yet again. As far more came than were needed for the actual restoration work, many of them turned their attention to the cliffs on either side of the monastery and excavated even more niches and grottoes. This would explain why a great number of the pagoda-shaped alcoves in the vicinity of Baoshan Monastery are in the style of the Tang dynasty.

Translated by He Fei



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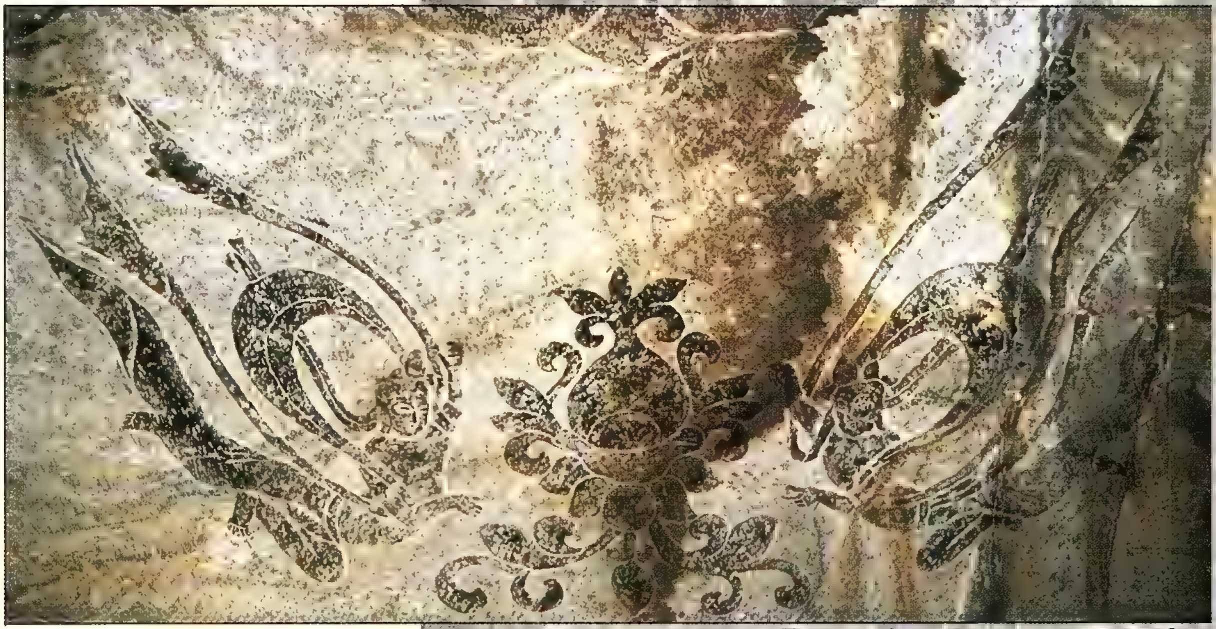

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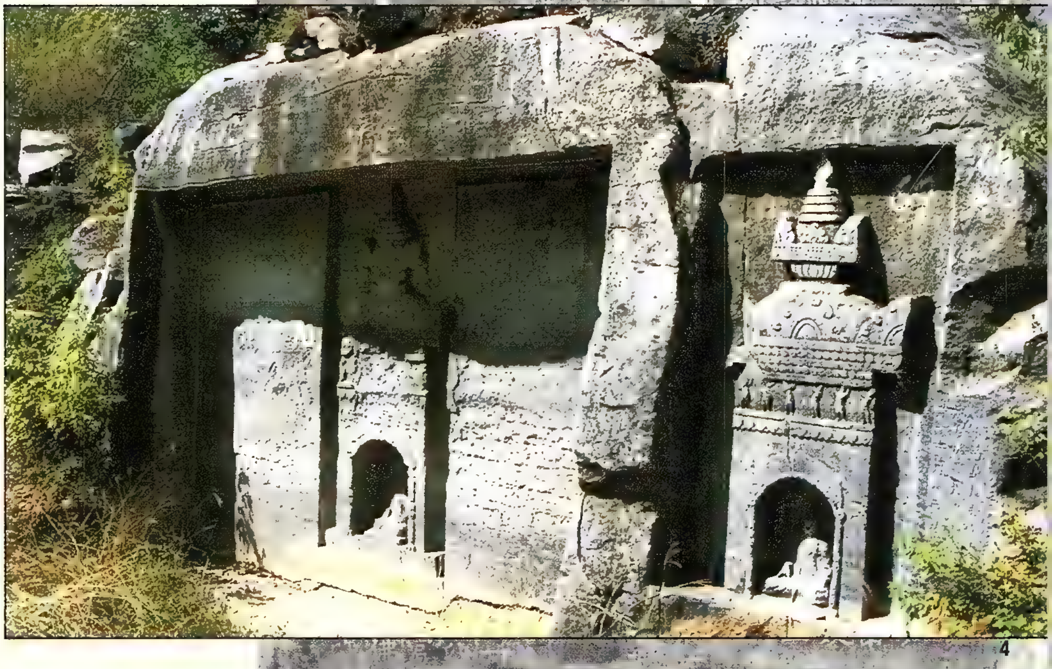


4

A mighty warrior guards the entrance to Dazhusheng Grotto (1), while apsaras grace its ceiling (3). The shape of the stupa said to contain the ashes of Dao Ping (2) is repeated in an alcove from the time of Abbot Ling Yu (4).

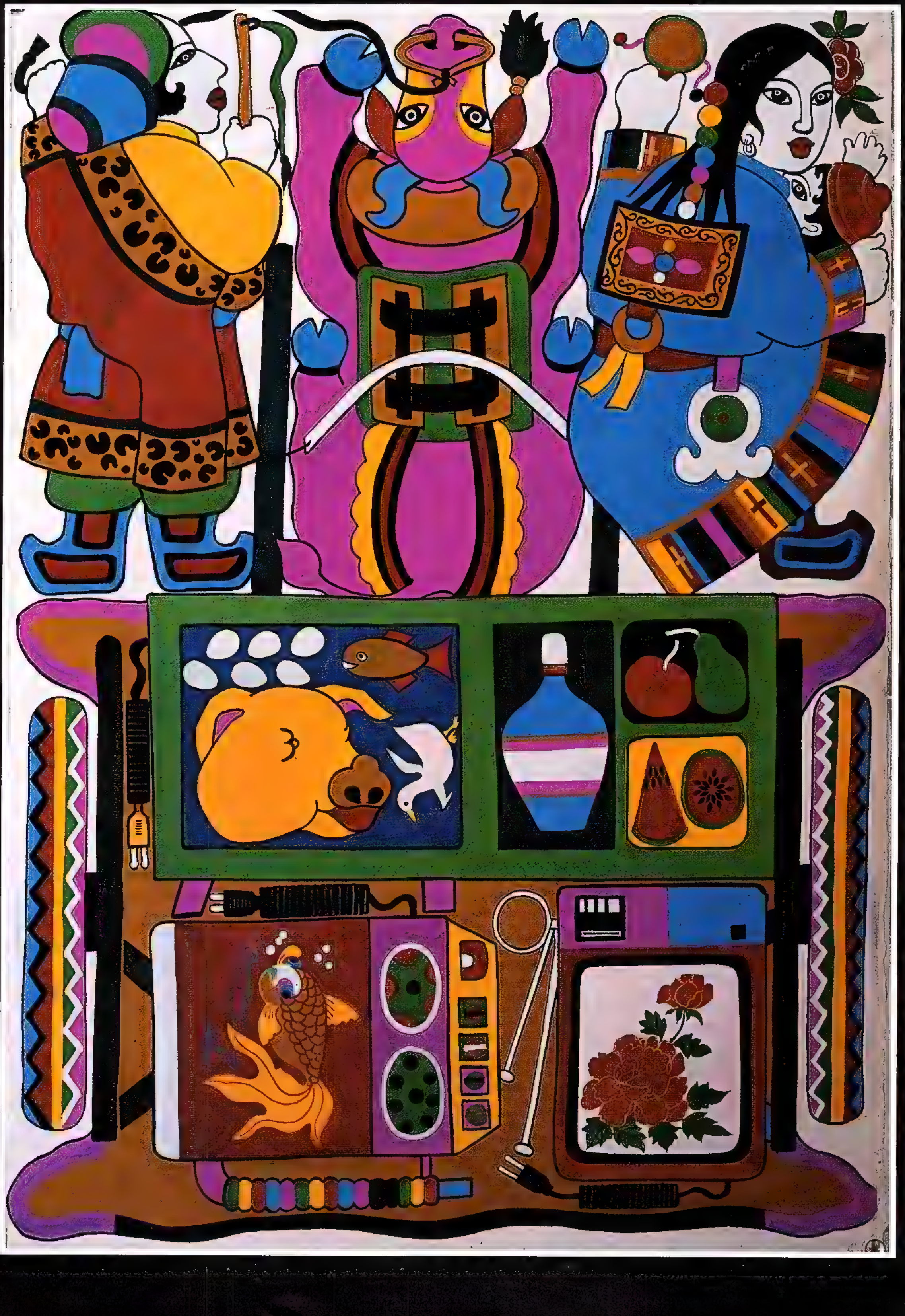
Tibetan Folk Painting in Qinghai's Huangzhong

PHOTOS BY
ZHENG YUNFENG
TEXT BY DAN ZHENG

Considered as one of the centres of China's contemporary folk painting, Huangzhong County of Qinghai Province is rich in Tibetan arts. Cheif practitioners of this art form, in addition to dedicated folk painters, include artisans and craftswomen who also excel at weaving and knitting.

Originating in the early 1970's, Tibetan folk painting has its roots in more traditional art forms. Folk painters skilfully shape images and create colour schemes often employing techniques of older folk arts such as the Tibetan *thangka*, Buddhist religious painting, butter modelling, embossed embroidery, sculpture, leather-silhouette show, weaving and knitting, paper-cutting and woodcut. Modern folk, painters in Tibet use bright colours to create vivid images, thus blazing new trails in painting style by emphasizing the decorative and the amusing. As a consequence, contemporary Tibetan folk paintings at once have a distinctive Tibetan flavour and have also evolved into a distinct genre of Tibetan arts.

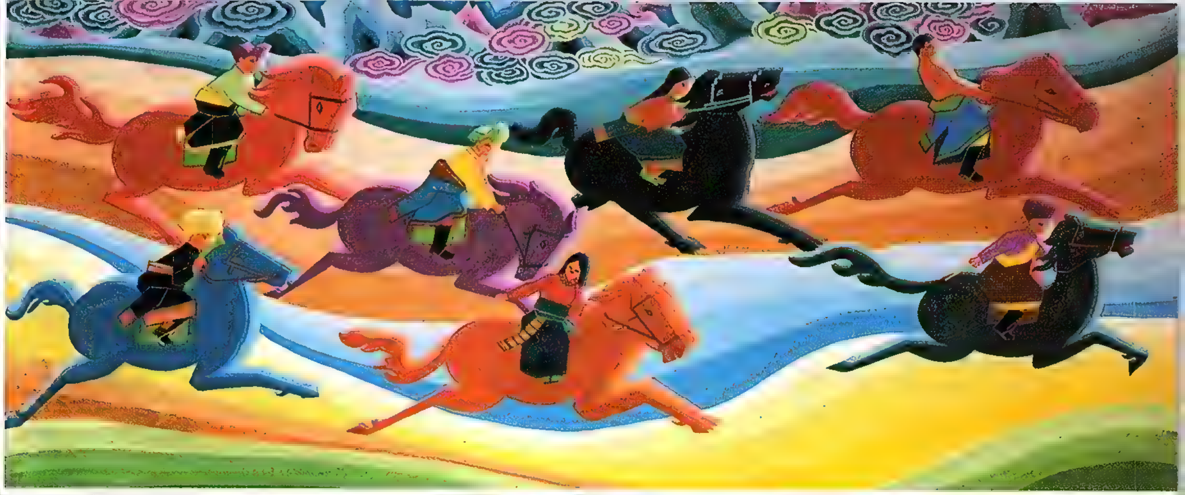
The motifs of Tibetan folk painting in Huangzhong County draw their inspiration from a range of subjects including the daily life of ordinary people, festivals and customs of the nationalities living in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and terrain features of the plateau as well as religious stories.



Homeward Journey
A Tibetan family long absent from home is at last homeward bound driving an ox cart burdened with belongings. Modern appliances are featured most prominently, including a refrigerator, television set and washing machine. A contradiction of modern technological progress being introduced ever so slowly by ancient means of transport is depicted, with subtle irony.

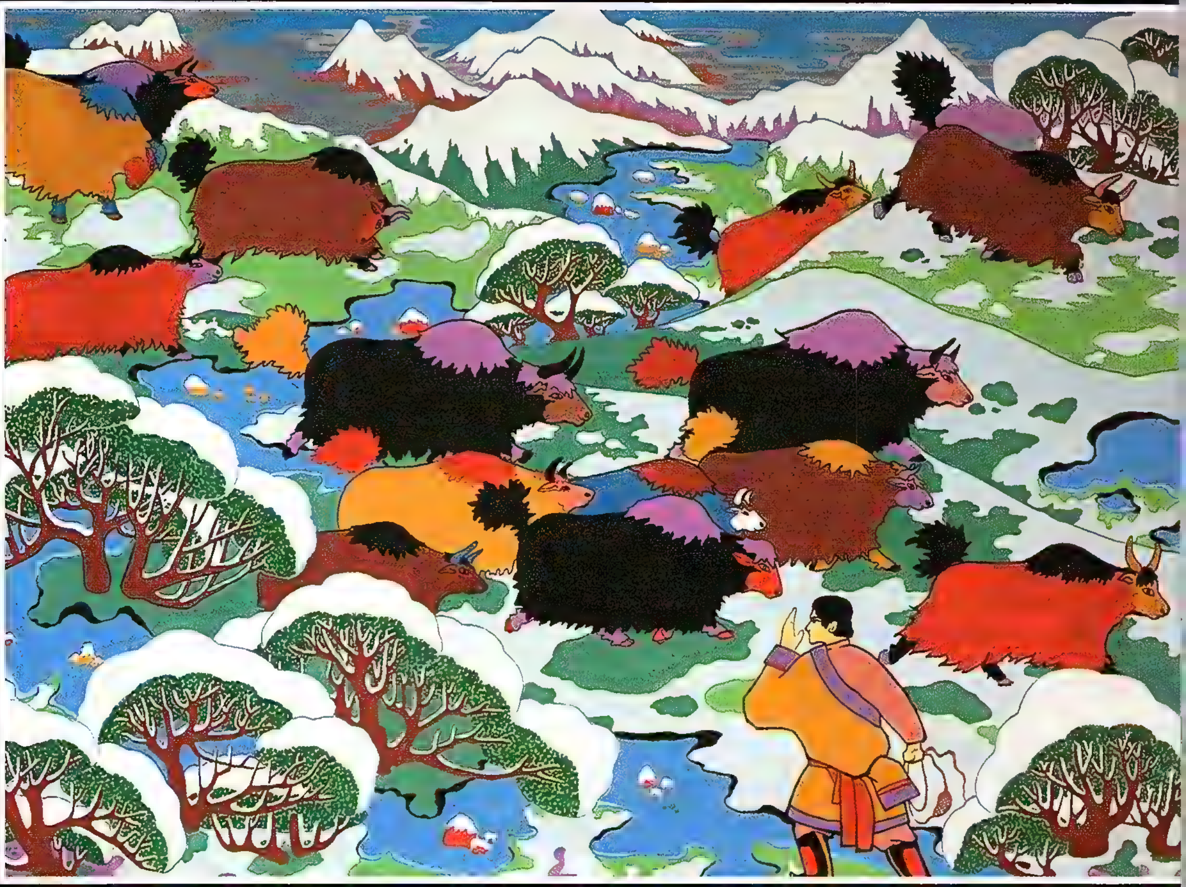
Steeds Galloping Over the Plateau

This lively painting depicts young Tibetans riding horses at a full gallop during a horse racing festival held at a plateau. A technique of graduated colouration is employed by using distinct layers which enhance the appearance of fast and fluid motion. Light coloured shadow lines are used to delineate the horses, creating a three-dimensional impression. Besides borrowing painting styles from the Tibetan Buddhist *thangka*, the painter adds to the decorative aspect of the painting by providing a background consisting of mountains and clouds which is confined to the upper part of the picture. This confinement of the background allows the action of horses racing in the foreground to be more prominently featured.



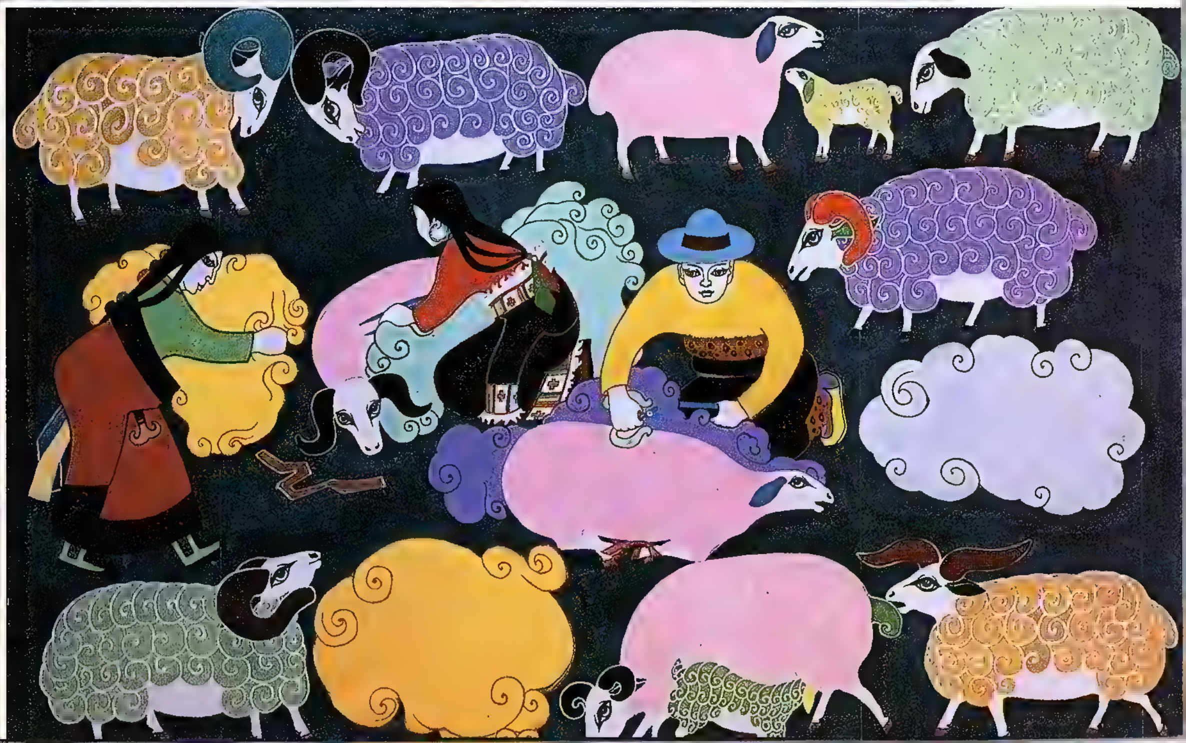
Pasture in Winter

This picture presents a winter pasture scene of yaks moving across the terrain at a fair pace. The herdsman, long whip in hand, is loudly urging on the animals — a vivid depiction of a day in the life of ordinary Tibetans. Aside from its crisp and lively colouring, this picture is characterized by its full yet compacted organization, which demonstrates the painter's skill in utilizing the entire plane to capture the action. The technique of outline drawing used to portray the heavy pile of snow weighing down the tree branches and covering the ridges of the hills in the foreground draws attention to the depth of the snow.



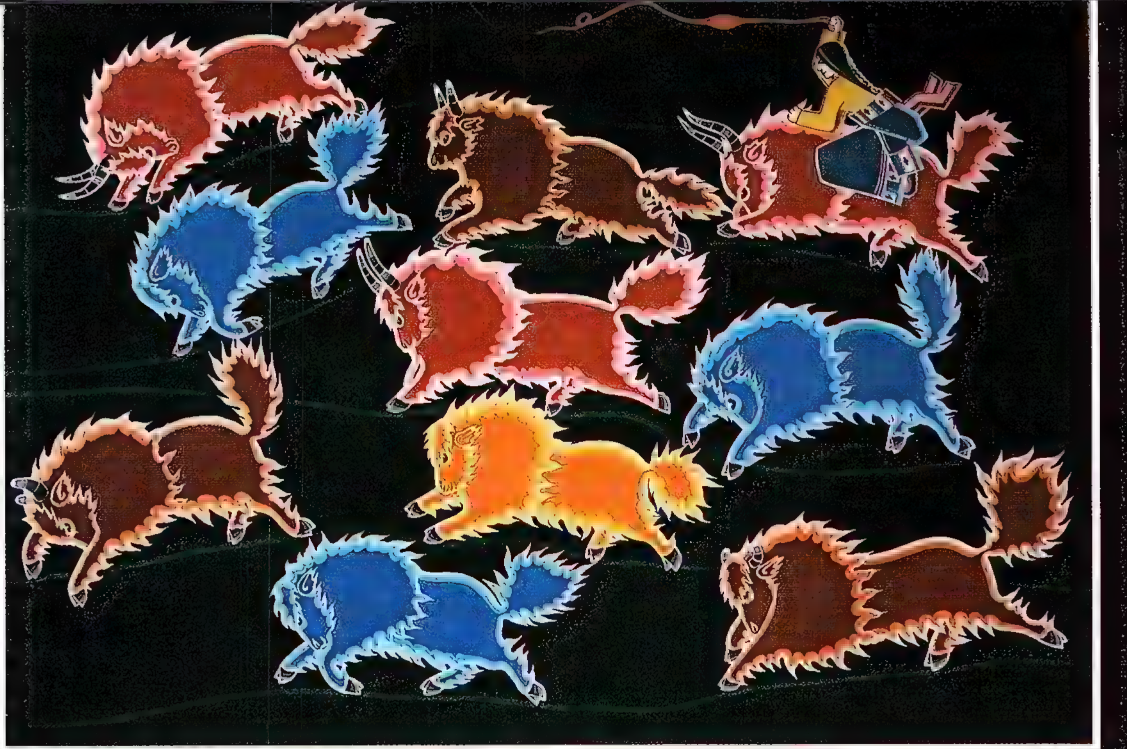
The Shearing of Sheep

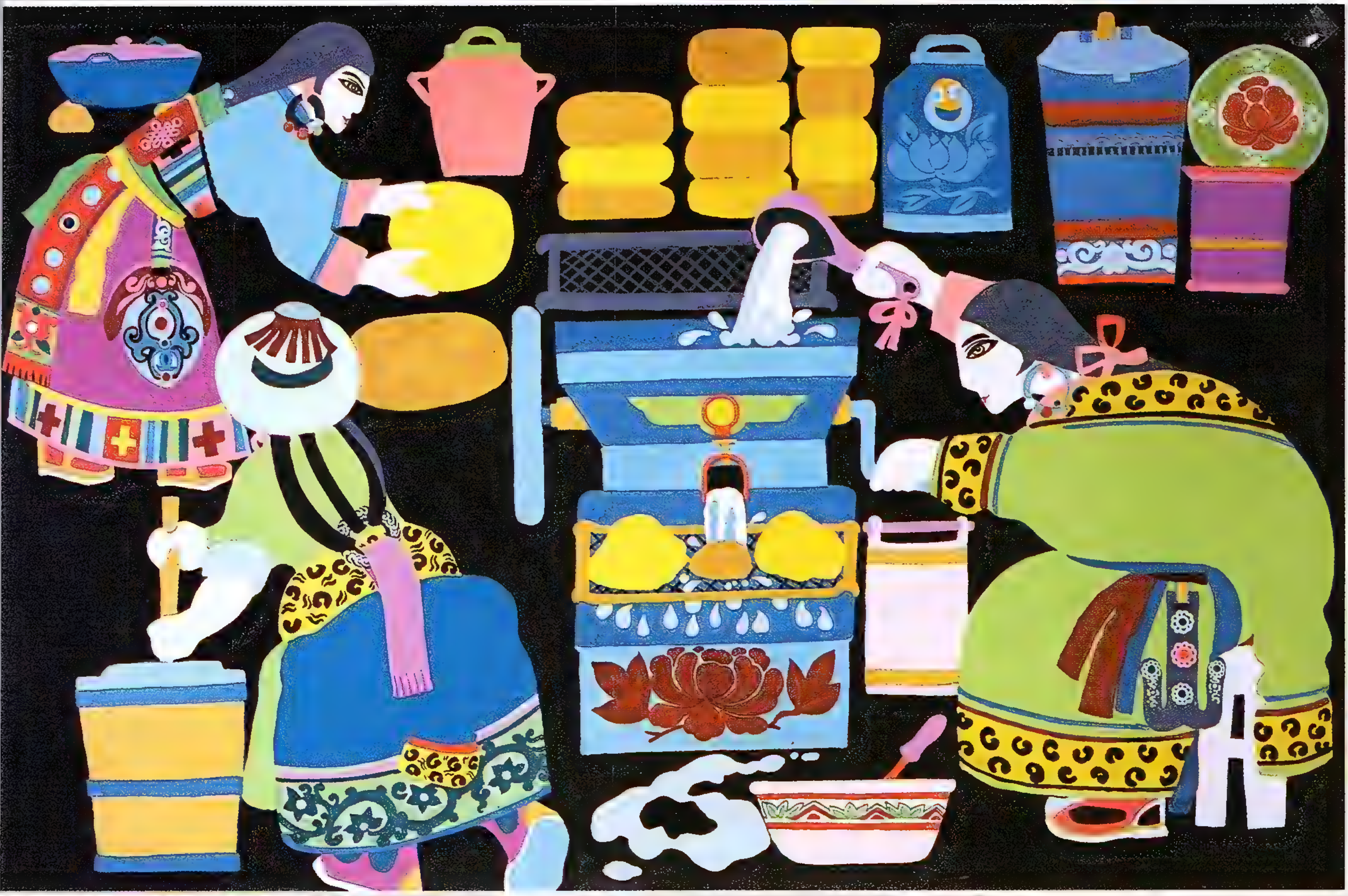
To perform the entitled task, Tibetan herdsmen drive the sheep together into a tight flock. After the legs of an individual sheep are tied up, then that sheep is shorn. The colouration of the picture is simple, clear and attractive. Against a dark blue background, the colours stand out in marked contrast, which makes the activity depicted stand out even more. Again, an aspect of Tibetan daily life is presented in this painting.



Breaking in the Oxen

This picture of a Tibetan girl riding a yak to break in oxen is quite simple in its arrangement of the objects painted. These objects are set off by a dark blue background. The wild nature of the strong, vigorous and, as of yet, untamed beasts is manifest in the use of brown and yellow colouration of the yak, and enhanced by the animals' flamelike outline. Judging from the particular technique employed in the outline drawing which delineates the animals we can infer that the artist quite probably adapted a skill that he or she learned while practising the art of paper-cutting. The simplistic painting technique further reveals the heroic dignity of the Tibetan girl trying to break in the yak.





Preparing Buttered Tea

This picture presents in bright colours a scene of preparing buttered tea, which is a staple of the Tibetan diet. The arduous work involved in the preparation of buttered tea by Tibetan women is starkly yet vividly captured.

Translated by Chen Jiaji

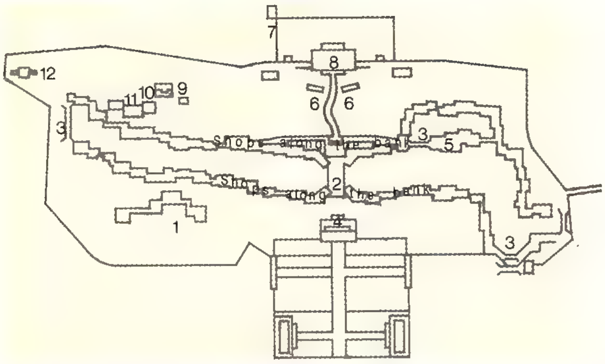
A boat tour on Suzhou Street evokes the water country south of the Changjiang River (by Wu Jialin).

Suzhou Street in the Summer Palace in Beijing

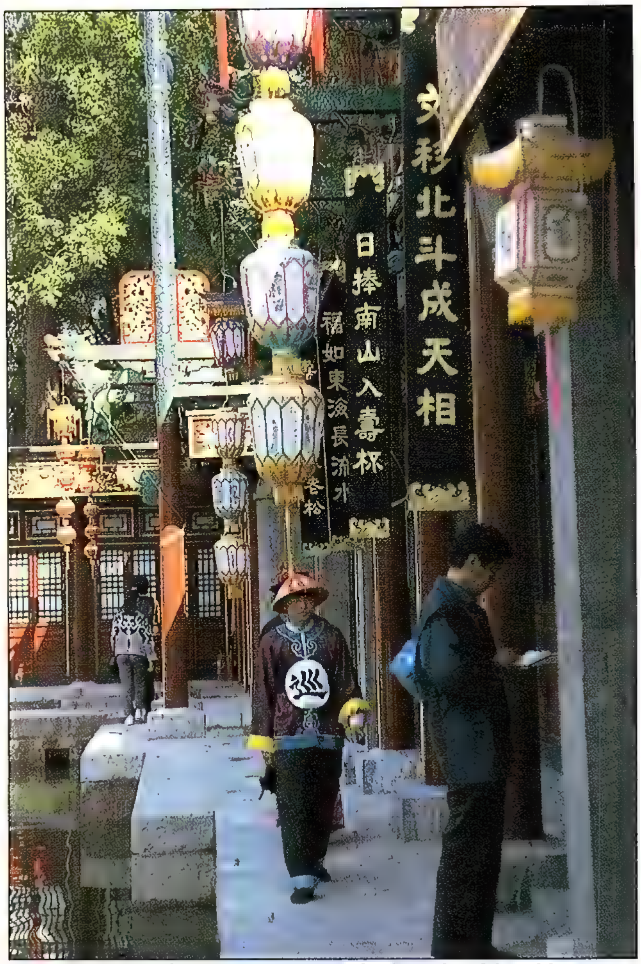
TEXT BY WU JIALIN & LIN BAI

Entering the east gate of the Summer Palace in Beijing and then going north along a quiet shaded path around Longevity Hill, we came to Back Lake where we saw a number of imitation old-fashioned pleasure boats crisscrossing the channel which is spanned by bridges of various shapes. It was a scene typical of the water country south of the Changjiang River.

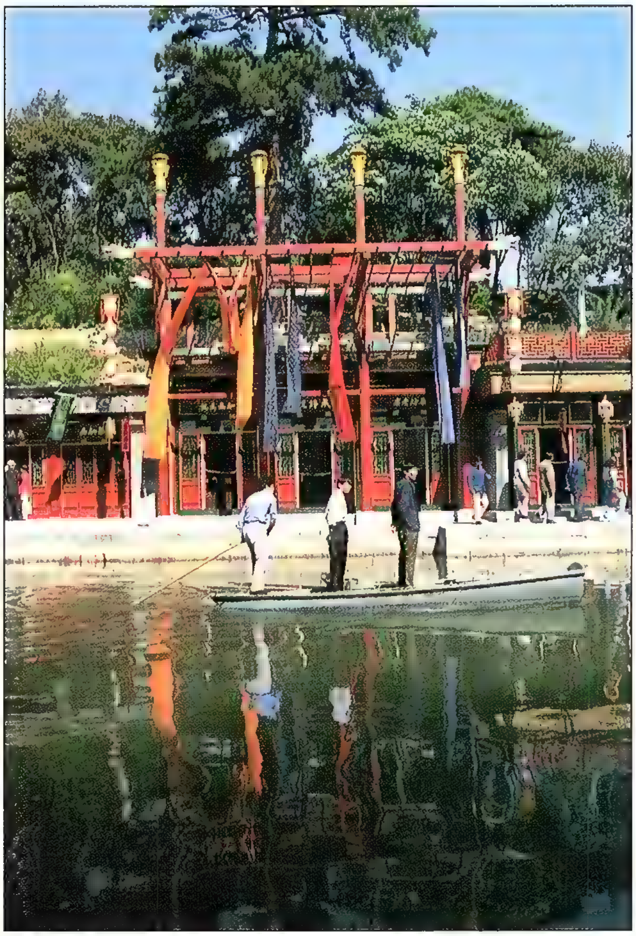
To tour along the street, you must change money into the fake coins for special use here (by Wu Jianlin).



1 繪芳堂 Huifang Hall (resting hall)
2 Stone bridge
3 Wooden bridge
4 Archway (South Entrance)
5 Central Isle
6 Guideboard
7 Souvenir shop
8 North Gate (Entrance and Reception Room)
9 花神廟 Florwer God Temple
10 妙覺寺 Miaojue Temple
11 嘉雲軒 Jiayunxuan (teahouse with performance)
12 通雲城 Tongyun City (west waterway entrance)



From the shops in the street hang signboards with golden characters beneath which stroll "policemen" dressed in the Qing style (by Wu Jialin).



The dyehouse in the old-fashioned style has appeared again (by Wu Jialin).

That is Suzhou Street, and its story goes back to the Qing emperor Qianlong who made six inspection tours in the south, the first four times accompanied by the empress dowager. Advanced in age, she missed the last two trips so as to avoid the hardships of the journey. To make up for her long-cherished wish to visit once more the region south of the Changjiang River, the emperor ordered the construction of Suzhou Street in Qingyi Garden (today's Summer Palace) in imitation of the landscape to which the empress dowager could no longer travel.

In 1860, both Suzhou Street and Qingyi Garden were destroyed in a war, and yet, in 1888, when Empress Dowager Cixi had the Summer Palace rebuilt, Suzhou Street alone was left in ruins. It was not until 1986 that restoration of Suzhou Street was begun, based on Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) documents. Built on the original site, it took five years to complete, and it is now one of Beijing's major tourist attractions.

Suzhou Street was once known as Shopping Street, and no wonder. You can see various signboards with golden characters and, flapping in the wind, colourful signflags with the characters "Wine" or "Tea" hanging high from the archways and shops.

If you want to buy something in Suzhou Street, you first have to change your money into the bronze coins bearing the characters of "Qianlong Coin in Circulation" at the bank near the entrance. The special fake coins of the Qing Dynasty can only be used to hire a boat, shop or buy food and drink.

For the most colourful tour just take a boat ride along the street. The boatmen dressed in copper brown Qing garments slowly slide the boats forward. The street is lined on each side with shops, and shopkeepers, dressed in colourful clothing, compete to invite customers in for bargains. The river bank is not high and the stone pavement in front of the shops is narrow, so that when boats get to the bank, a passenger can step directly from the boat into one of the shops in a single stride. My stride took me into a restaurant to taste the royal court delicacies and desserts.

As I walked down the street, I passed by various enterprises — a pawn shop, bank, dyehouse, drugstore, incense shop, hat shop, shoe shop, weaving workshop and official garment shop — all with old-fashioned furniture. Both shops and fixtures were modelled after the original layout and style of Suzhou Street in the 18th century. Apart from the shops, in the market are "ancient" craftsmen displaying their skills, the painting mounters showing the art of mounting, the dough figure makers modelling figures with their hands, and the seal carvers carving seals.

The staff members are all dressed in the Qing style according to their status. When they see off their customers, they bow with their hands folded in front of them. The bridge watchers wear a coat with an embroidered character, "patrol", on the chest, a long sword and a sharp-pointed triangular hat with red tassels.

I entered a tavern and ordered a cup of Shaoxing wine. The drinking vessels and furnishings were period imitations, and even the dishes were spiced delicacies in vogue during the Qing Dynasty.

Time slid away and night fell, wrapping Suzhou Street in the glow of hundreds of lotus-shaped gauze lanterns. The lanterns were mirrored in the river. When the wind blew over the water surface, it stirred up ripples with shimmering light while elegant music from stringed instruments drifted over the buildings.

Translated by Gu Weizhou

big character, "Happiness", is brushed on the facade of is restaurant (by Shen Che).

This seems to be a good place to select high-heeled shoes made in the Qing style (by Shen Che).

zhou Street at dusk when the shops have lighted the lotus lanterns, is a time suitable for meditation on ancient customs (by Shen Che).

HSUJI GROUNDNUTS

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HSUJI

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Staying in Chengdu

At the very centre of Chengdu, the provincial capital of Sichuan, is the provincial exhibition hall and square. The square features a huge statue of Mao Zedong. Chengdu's major hotels can all be found in the city's busy downtown area not far from the square. Leading southward and northward are Renmin South (Renmin Nan) Road and Renmin North (Renmin Bei) Road respectively while running perpendicular to Renmin South Road and across the front of the square is the Shudu Avenue (Shudu Da Dao).

On the Renmin South Road are the Jin Jiang and Minshan hotels. The 30-year-old **Jin Jiang** is the oldest and best known of the hotels of Chengdu. Managed by the Jinjiang Group, the hotel had undergone several renovations and is now considered to be the best hotel in Chengdu with the most modern facilities. It has also a reputation of providing good service. The hotel boasts seventeen restaurants and banquet rooms and a large hall. As in all the better hotels in Chengdu it offers fine spicy Sichuan cuisine and Chengdu snacks, as well as Cantonese and Western food. Along the road in the vicinity are shops selling antiques and calligraphy.

On the other side of the road is the newly-built **Minshan Hotel**, named after the Minshan mountain range in Sichuan's north where the scenic Jiuzhaigou Valley is found. Owned by the Sichuan Provincial Tourism Bureau, Minshan is generally regarded to be Chengdu's second best hotel after Jin Jiang. The Minshan is equipped with eleven restaurants and bars and apart from Sichuan and Western food, its Bai Cao Yuan (meaning the garden of one hundred kinds of herbs) Restaurant also offers traditional Chinese dishes cooked with medicinal herbs and vegetables. According to the hotel's promotion materials, the purpose of the restaurant is to combine "the traditional Chinese way of keeping people in good health with the traditional skill of culinary art". The restaurant also has a counter that provides medicinal herbs produced in Sichuan as well as consultation on the Chinese traditional way to a healthy diet. Minshan is also conveniently situated quite close to the CAAC air ticket office.

In addition to the hotels mentioned above there are the Chengdu and Jinhe hotels. On Shudu Avenue west of the provincial exhibition hall is the even newer **Jinhe Grand Hotel** which offers a rotating restaurant on the top floor. The **Chengdu Grand** is found on Renmin North Road which leads northward from the exhibition hall. On the same road is the **Tibet Hotel**, run by the Tibet Tourism Bureau. Chengdu is on one of the most popular routes leading to Tibet and the hotel is set up primarily to provide services to travellers going to Tibet. For example, a group of travellers who are going to stay in Chengdu for only a couple of days may find it more convenient to stay in Tibet Hotel as it will handle air reservations from Chengdu to Tibet. This service, though, is not Limited exclusively to its guests.

The last of Chengdu's major hotels is the **Zhufeng Hotel** which is situated east of the Chengdu Grand and Tibet hotels. The past few years saw the completion of most of these hotels which have helped ease the shortage of hotel rooms. Such a shortage had been a problem in those days when the Jin Jiang was the only hotel and a vacant room was not easy to come by.

Hotels in the Provinces Along the Route of the Long March

Following is a list of hotels in the major city of each province mentioned in the Long March articles earlier in this issue. Included here is information about each hotel such as address and contact number.

Chengdu, Sichuan

Chengdu Grand Hotel
成都大酒店
No. 29, Sect. 2, Renmin Rd (N), Chendgu 610081
Tel: 331132, 333888 Telex: 600349 CHDGH CN Fax: 333613
GM: Jiang Tao
Over 800 rooms and suites
Located southwest of Chengdu Railway Station Square
Facilities: Sichuan, Chengdu and Cantonese restaurants, Western Restaurant, bar, karaoke, disco; business centre, conference rooms and halls, multi-function hall, shopping centre, beauty parlour, art gallery

Jinhe Grand Hotel
金河大酒店
18 Jinhe St, Chengdu 610031
Tel: 672888 Telex: 600341 JHHTL CN Fax: 662037
GM: Long Guanyin
425 rooms and suites
Located 4 km north of railway station and 18 km from airport
Facilities: Rotating restaurant on top floor, Chinese and Western restaurants, bars, karaoke, coffee shop, banquet hall, multi-function hall, beauty parlour, shopping centre

Jin Jiang Hotel
錦江賓館

Photo by Wang Miao

No. 36, Sect. 2, Ren Min Nan (South) Rd, Chengdu 610012
Tel: 582228 Telex: 60109 JJH CN Fax: 581849
Opened 1960
GM: Luo Lixian
513 rooms and suites Rates: standard FEC 173/202 yuan, suite FEC 365/690/1240 yuan, presidential suite FEC 2060 yuan
Located on the bank of Jinjiang River
Facilities: Restaurants offering Western, Sichuan and other Chinese cuisines, bar, banquet hall, multi-function hall, shopping centre, beauty salon, laundry, disco, billiard and video game rooms, tennis court, bowling alley, swimming pool, gym clinic, World Trade Centre Club Chengdu (business centre), conference hall

Minshan Hotel
岷山飯店

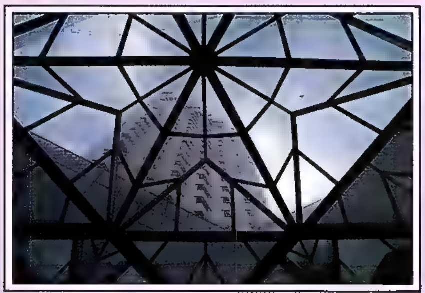


Photo by Wang Miao

No. 17, Sect. 2, Ren Min Nan Rd, Chengdu 610021
Tel: 58333 Telex: 60247 MSH CN/600033 MSNHL CN Fax: 582154
337 rooms and suites Rates: Standard US$41, Suite US$84/188

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, coffee shop, banquet hall, shopping centre, business centre, disco/nightclub, beauty parlour, gym, billiard and video game rooms

Tibet Hotel

西藏飯店

Photo by Ge Jialin

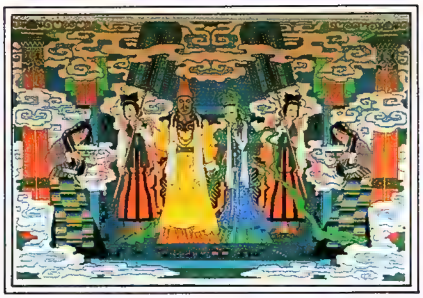


Photo by Ge Jialin

No. 10 Renmin Bei (North) Rd, Chengdu
Tel: 34001 Telex: 60309 THC CN
426 rooms and suites
Distances from (by car): city centre 10 min, railway station 5 min, airport 40 min
Facilities: Sichuan, Cantonese and vegetarian restaurants, coffee shop, bar, disco, shopping arcade, banqueting, and conference facilities, hairdressing salon, laundry

Zhufeng Hotel

珠峰賓館

No. 107 Shangxi Shuncheng St, Chengdu
Tel: 62441 Telex: 600023 ZHGHO CN
Opened 1988
270 rooms
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, disco/nightclub, beauty salon, clinic, business services

Lanzhou, Gansu

Friendship Hotel Lanzhou

友誼飯店

Photo by Ma Yiu Chun

No. 14 West Xijin Rd, Lanzhou 730056
Tel: 33051 Telex: 72143 LFSHL
Manager: Li Shangyin

Hongyun Hotel

虹雲賓館

No. 5 Gaolan Rd, Lanzhou 730000
Tel: 28311
GM: Li Shanmin
84 rooms and 6 suites Rates: double FEC 80 yuan, sutie FEC 120 yuan
Distance from: city centre 1 km, railway 2 km, airport 7.5 km

Jincheng Hotel

金城賓館

No. 363 Tianshui Ave, Lanzhou 730000
Tel: 27931, 28611 Telex: 72121 BTHJC CN Fax: 418438
GM: Yang Xiaotian
264 rooms and 38 suites Rates: Double US$40, suite US$60, deluxe suite US$120
Distance from: city centre 1 km, railway 2 km, airport 7.5 km

Lanzhou Hotel

蘭州飯店

No. 204 West Donggang Rd, Lanzhou 730000
Tel: 28321, 22981 Telex: 72131 FANDN
Manager: Yu Jinpeng

Ningwozhuang Hotel

寧臥莊飯店

No. 238 Tianshui Rd, Lanzhou 730000
Tel: 26221 Telex: 72146 GUEST
Manager: Wang Changju

Victory (Shengli) Hotel

勝利賓館

No. 127 Zhongshan Rd, Lanzhou 730030
Tel: 465221 Fax: 461531
Manager: Tian Xiuzhi

Yinchuan, Ningxia

Lüzhou Hotel

綠州飯店

West Jiefang St, Yinchuan 750000
Tel: 34316, 26351

Ningxia Hotel

寧夏賓館

No. 3 Park (Gongyuan) St, Yinchuan 750000
Tel: 2131, 22131
GM: Ding Wanhua

Xinhua Hotel

新華飯店

No. 31 East Xinhua St, Yinchuan 750000
Tel: 31089, 3375

Yinchuan Hotel

銀川飯店

No. 25 West Jiefang St, Yinchuan 750001
Tel: 23053, 3053

Xi'an Shaanxi

Bell Tower Hotel

鐘樓飯店

South West Corner of Bell Tower, Xi'an 710001
Tel: 29200-09 Telex: 70124 XABTH CN Fax: 718970, 718767
GM: Robert Wild
321 rooms and suites Rates: single around US$40-60, double US$45-65, suite US$110-320
Distance from: airport 5 km, railway station 5 km

College Hotel

書院賓館

East Shuyuan Rd, Lin Tong, Xi'an 710600
Tel: 3831

Concord Hotel Xian

西安協和大酒店

28, East Feng Hao Rd, Xi'an 710077
Tel: 742814 Telex: 70024 CONHL CN Fax: 741939
GM: Liu Yanhe
Opened 1986
169 rooms and suites Rates: standard US$18 (Apr-Nov 91), US$14 (Dec-Mar 91)
Distance from (by car): airport 5 min, railway station 20 min, downtown 15 min Taxi fare to airport: 10 yuan

Dynasty Hotel

秦都酒店

55 Huangchengxi Rd North, Xi'an 710082
Tel: 712718 Telex: 700233 DHX Fax: 712728
GM: Paul Wang
200 rooms

Golden Flower Hotel

金花飯店

8 Chang Le Rd West, Xi'an
Tel: 332981 Telex: 70145 GFH CN Fax: 335477
GM: Udo H. Döring
Opened 1985 (phase I), 1989 (phase II)
498 rooms and suites
Rates: single US$90, double US$110, deluxe junior suite US$175, deluxe suite US$250, presidential suite US$800
Distance from (by car): airport 20 min, railway station 10 min
Car fare to and from airport: hotel mini bus US$3, taxi US$40
Taxi fare to and from railway station: US$2 +
Located in the residential district of Xi'an

Grand New World Hotel

古都新世界大酒店

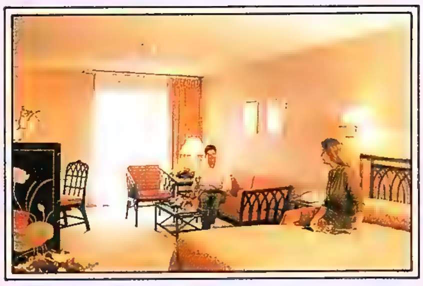
48 Lian Hu Lu, Xi'an 710002
Tel: 716868 Telex: 700215 NWDHA CN Fax: 71975
GM: Raymond Yip
Opened 18 February 1989
501 rooms and suites
Rates: standard US$100/US$80, superior US$120/US$100, Executive suite US$180/US$150, deluxe suite US$330/US$300, Presidential suite (on request only)
Distance from: airport 4 km, railway station 4 km
Taxi fare: FEC 20 yuan to/from either terminal
Location in city centre

Hawaii Hotel
夏威夷酒店
54 Youyidong Rd, Xi'an 710054
Tel: 711288 Telex: 70198 XAHWH CN Fax: 711128

Holiday Inn Xian
西安神州假日酒店
No. 8 South Section, Huan Cheng East rd, Xi'an 710054
Tel: 333888 Telex: 70043 COLT CN Fax: 335962
GM: Udo Hahn
Opened early 1989
353 rooms and suites Rates: standard US$70/75, King US$80/75, suite US$130, Presidental suite US$200
Located at the southeastern corner of the city, with a view of the ancient city wall and just 15 min walk from Bell Tower, one of Xi'an's major ancient architecture
Distance from: airport 15 min, railway station 10 km

Hyatt Regency Xian
西安凱悅(阿房宮)飯店
Dongda Jie, Xi'an 710001
Tel: 712020 Telex: 70048 AFPH CN Fax: 716799
GM: Chee T. Ng
Opened July 1990
404 rooms and suites
Rates: superior US$90, deluxe US$100, Regency Club US$130, Junior suite US$180, Diplomatic suite US$280, Executive suite US$330/480, Presidential suite US$800
Special rates: effective April 1991 30% discount off the published rates until November 1991
Located on the corner of Dong Da St and Heping Rd within Xi'an ancient city wall
Distance from: airport 15 km/30 min by car, railway station 2 km/5 min by car

Jianguo Hotel Xian
建國飯店



20 Jin Hua Nan Rd, Xi'an
Tel: 338888 Telex: 700209 XAJGH CN Fax: 335145
GM: Chris Lui
Opened 12 March 1989
820 rooms and suites
Rates: single and double at US$42-52, suites at US$55-200
Located outside the city's ancient wall, 12 km/25 min from airport, 7 km/10 min from railway station, and close to the Xingqing Park, the Banpo Museum, Greater Wild Goose Pagoda and the Xi'an zoo
Taxi fare to/from airport: US$2

New World Hotel Xian
新世界酒店
No. 5 Nan Da Jie, Xi'an
Tel: 718977, 719988 Telex: 70042 NWH CN Fax: 716688
GM: Roy Wu
Opened 22 June 1988
138 rooms and suites
Rates: Hotel : standard US$30, superior US$35, Tower : standard US$25/35, superior US$42, suite US$67/93
Located in the heart of city, near the Bell Tower
Distances from: airport 5 km, railway station 3 km
Taxi fare to/from: airport FEC 30 yuan, railway station FEC 20 yuan

Merchants Hotel
華商酒店
No. 131 Heping Rd, Xi'an 710001
Tel: 718988

Orient Hotel
東方大酒店
Xiao Zhai XiLu, Xi'an 710061
Tel: 711385, 752211 Telex: 700228 XAOH CN Fax: 711590
GM: Ren Zeng Hai
To be opened in later 1991
There will be 330 room and suites
Located in the southern part of city, 8 km from airport and 7 km from railway station

Qomolangma Hotel
珠穆朗瑪賓館
No. 55 East Youyi Rd, Xi'an 710054
Tel: 711980, 711986 Telex: 70173 Fax: 711017

Renmin (People's) Hotel
人民大廈
No. 319 Dongxin St, Xi'an 710004
Tel: 715111 Telex: 70176 RMHTA CN Fax: 718152
GM: Xue Hanjun
566 rooms and suites Rates: double around FEC 58-180 yuan, suite FEC 135-325 yuan, deluxe 650-1350, presidential 1,860
Disctance from: airport 8.5 km, railway station 2.5 km

Scarlet Bird Hotel
朱雀飯店
Xiao Zhai XiLu, Xi'an 710061
Tel: 53311 Telex: 70186 TSBHL CN Fax: 711590
GM: Ren Zeng Hai
Opened April 1985
112 rooms Rates: US$30
Located in the southern part of city, 8 km from airport and 7 km from railway station

Shaanxi Guest House
陝西賓館
Zhang Ba Gou, Xi'an 710061
Tel: 713831 Telex: 70181 SXHTA CN Fax: 713834
GM: Lu Yan
450 rooms Rates: standard twin US$50 (off peak season US$40), suite US$105 (off peak $70) Special 50% discount rates valid after June 1991
The hotel is a complex of villas and garden located 10 km southwest of city centre and occupies an area of 260,000 sq m that includes a 45,000 sq m main-made lake

Sheraton Xian Hotel
西安喜來登大酒店
12 Feng Gao Rd, West Suburbs, Xi'an 710077
Tel: 741888 Telex: 70032 Fax: 742984
GM: Henry Lee
Soft opened 31 March 1991, Grand Opening in August 1991
480 rooms and suites Rates: standard US$90, superior US$105, suite US$150
Package rates: US$70 (Apr-Aug 1991), US$80 (Sep-Nov 1991), include superior room accommodation, daily American breakfast, round trip airport transfer, arrival amenity, late check out at 4pm, complementary use of swimming pool and health club, Sheraton Club International bonus of 500 points per stay
Located outside West Gate, 7-10 min for city centre, 5 min from airport

Sportsmen's Lodge
體育賓館
Shaanxi Sport Centre, Chang'an Rd, Xi'an 710068
Tel: 711341

Tang Cheng Hotel
唐城賓館
No. 3 South Lingyuan Rd, Xi'an 710061
Tel: 711164, 55920, 54171 Telex: 70013 TCH CN Fax: 711041
GM: Li Qikui
406 rooms and suites Rates: standard US$39/53, suite US$92/128-170/383
Distances from: city centre 7 km, airport 10 km, railway station 7 km

Wan Nian Hotel
萬年飯店
No. 11 Changle Zhong Rd, Xi'an 710032
Tel: 331932, 332523 Telex: 70033 XWNH CN Fax: 335460
GM: Philip K.S. Chu
166 rooms and suites Rates: standard FEC 150 yuan, superior FEC 180 yuan, suite FEC 300 yuan
Distances from: city centre 6 km, airport 12 km, railway station 5 km

Xi'an Garden Hotel — Tang Hua
唐華賓館

4, Dong Yan Yin Lu, Da Yan Ta, Xi'an
Tel: 711111 Telex: 70027 GAHTL CN Fax: 711998
GM: Iwamura Shuichi
Opened 27 April 1988
301 rooms and suites Rates: single US$105, twin US$125, triple US$130, suite US$250, deluxe twin US$150
Located near the Greater Wild Goose Pagoda
Features a Tang Theater Restaurant offering shows, and a Xi'an Tang Arts Museum

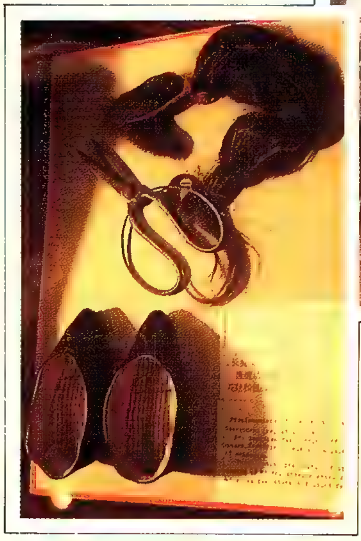
Xi'an Hotel
西安賓館
No. 26, North Section, Chang'an Rd, Xi'an 710061
Tel: 711351 Telex: 70135 XAHTL CN Fax: 711796
GM: Pei Changju

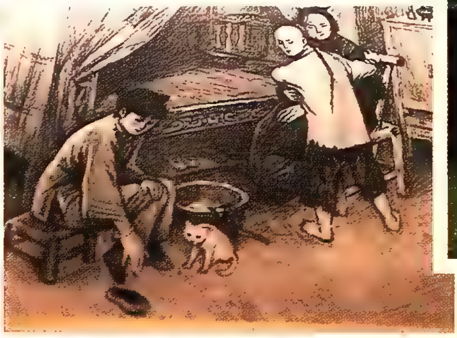
XiBei Hotel
西北飯店
Youyi West St, Chang'an Southern Suburbs, Xi'an
Tel: 711331, 711250
350 rooms
Located in Weiqu in southern suburbs, 9.5 km from the Bell Tower in the city centre

Xi Ying Hotel
西影大酒店
70 Xi Ying Rd, Xi'an
Tel: 558111 Telex: 700213 Fax: 711585

Yulan Hotel
榆蘭酒店
40 Changle Rd West, Xi'an
Tel: 721414, 721519 Telex: 70016 YLH CN Fax: 721639
GM: Lairung Jee
Opened September 1986
72 rooms Rate: US$14
Distances from: airport 8 km (single trip taxi about Rmb 30 yuan), railway station 2 km

A One Day Trip to





Clockwise from left:

Displayed in the Sun Yat-sen Museum are these symbols of bondage: a pair of woman's bound feet shoes and a man's pigtail;

And an illustration depicting a young Sun Yat-sen protecting his sister against footbinding.

The museum, which was Sun Yat-sen's home, in Cui Heng

A woodcarver applies his skill to a traditional craft.

Sun Yat-sen's portrait hangs in a place of honour in the museum.

For those with only one day to get a glimpse of China, day tours leave from Macau every day to Sun Yat-sen's home village of Cui Heng, a quiet town just over the border from Macau where one can see both the traditional life of the countryside and the effects of modernization.

The village is nestled between small green mountains where the wind from the South China Sea blows through the grass. Rice and pineapple fields surround it. The first stop on the bus from Macau is at the Sun Yat-sen Museum, but one should first walk down the road to the old village to explore where Sun Yat-sen swam in the river and played in the fields.

The old village, built around the turn of the century and rebuilt in the 1930's, with its quiet lanes meandering through the low one- and two-story grey-brick houses, is a classic example of Pearl River Delta architecture. Heavy wooden doors are thrown open to allow light into the living rooms of the houses and sliding horizontal wooden bars across the entryway keep the fiercely barking dogs away from visitors. Red papers with couplets and red and yellow guardian figures pasted at the entrance on Chinese New Year break the monotony of the grey bricks.

Further down the lane, the foundation of the old Yang family temple, torn down during the Cultural Revolution, once again holds incense. According to stories, Sun Yat-sen, a Christian, broke off a finger from one of the figures in the temple to show how useless they were, but he ended up with a bad stomach ache from the affair. While walking through the stillness, note also the *tianjing*, sky fountain temple houses, with an open ceiling allowing light and rain in on the family flowers.

From the village one can walk out to the fields, listening to the gurgle of the irrigation water alongside the path and watching the farmers working with the traditional plow behind the silently plodding water buffalo. Although industry has come to Cui Heng, agriculture is still necessary to the people there. The land belongs to the village, but the peasants work under their own responsibility. The older people can usually be seen in the fields while the young people work in the factories or hotels.

Down the road and across from the village is the Cui Heng Hotel, a modern, glittering glass and bright-lights hotel where one can spend the night or get a good meal of local foods, although Western food is also available. Behind the hotel is a path that snakes up to the ridge of the hills where one can look down on Cui Heng on the one side and off to the South China Sea, glistening grey, on the other.

The Sun Yat-sen Museum commemorates the town's most famous citizen. Sun Yat-sen, the Father of the Chinese Republic and one of the Three Patriarchs of the revolution, became China's first President in 1911. He was condemned to spend most of his life exiled from China, the country he worked so hard to support.

Following the traditional pattern of many of the sea coast people of Fujian and Guangdong Provinces, he went overseas at thirteen to join a prosperous brother, Sun Shouping, in Honolulu. Educated abroad, he brought back to his homeland not just his skills as a physician, but ideas of how he wanted his country to survive. He campaigned heavily against slavery, footbinding, opium smoking and bureaucratic corruption but felt the real answer to China's problems lay in revolution against the parasitic Manchus and in strengthening the sinews of China against foreign domination.

He crystallized his ideas in the Sanminzhuyi, Three Principles. Minzu, nationalism, focused on destroying the Manchu and other foreign domination. Minzhu, democracy, developed the people's spirit, encouraging initiative, referendum, election and recall; and Minsheng, people's livelihood, was to strengthen their bodies by regulating capital and equalizing ownership of the land.

The museum holds photographs and papers telling his history and includes the house he called home most of his life. He was born into an unbaked brick house to a farmer and shoemaker, Sun Dacheng, on November 12, 1866. This new residence was built in 1892 by Sun Shouping for the family, and Sun Yat-sen could often be found there from 1892-5 and after 1912. One enters a formal room which would normally contain the family altar, but, due to Sun Yat-sen's being a Christian, it was left with only the richness of the woodcarving to decorate it. The next room is a bed-sitting room for Sun Dacheng to use when he came to visit. One sees as well the traditional Chinese beds with mosquito netting, and, most unusual, a Western-style bathtub. One can visit Dr. Sun's study where he often studied, treated

Cui Heng

patients and discussed national affairs with his family.

After seeing the traditional village and the museum, turn the other way to see the new and modern aspects of life in China. The market is just down the road with small restaurants selling congee and rice cakes in banana leaves; the wet market with meat and vegetables; a barbershop; and shops with the latest fashionable goods. Cantopop, the Chinese development from Western rock music, blasts from the trendy stores with posters of Chinese film stars brightening the walls.

Beyond walking distance is the new section of town with two-story houses that are the envy of any crowded Guangzhou resident. Teenage girls with a white Persian cat, their own bedroom with a pink bedroom set and extension princess phone are not usually found in China but can be found here in Cui Heng. Late model color televisions, VCRs with popular Hong Kong and Taiwanese films, and compact disc players mark the homes of the prosperous Cui Heng residents.

The Middle School was built in 1935 in memory of Sun Yat-sen with overseas Chinese money and is one of the most important middle schools in the province. Built with traditional upswept tile roofs, with its classical beauty, it looks more like an academy than a middle school. Like an academy, too, are its high academic standards. Students feel the work is very hard but travel from as far away as Guangzhou and Shaoguan to study because their chances of getting into the university are better. Students study Chinese, English, natural sciences, history and mathematics for 45 hours a week with an additional hour commitment to either self-study or sports.

Cui Heng is a model of how modernization works in China both because of the open-door policy, allowing Special Economic Zones to set the way for the rest of China, and because of overseas Chinese who always remember their family village and send money for its upkeep and development.

The Pearl River Delta is famous as the home of many overseas Chinese, people raised abroad, like Sun Yat-sen, who still revere their motherland and their family's home.

In the late nineteenth century, the proximity of the region to the coast and to the developing commercial centres of Hong Kong, Macau, and Guangzhou made this impoverished region the centre of a diaspora of Chinese to California, Southeast Asia, and Europe. Merchants whose livelihood had dried up and labourers who had been sharecroppers or small landowners followed clan members or neighbors abroad, often financed by them and provided with contacts overseas. There they settled with their clan brothers where they were encouraged to work with single-minded determination, deferring their own material rewards until they too could bring other kin abroad or send money home to the family. It is their descendants and others gone abroad since who sometimes return or sometimes send money but who aid in the modernization of China, particularly in this region.

The spirit today in Cui Heng is entrepreneurism, wafted over on the winds from Hong Kong and Macau. We visited a cooperative factory manufacturing mahogony furniture for export only. The deep red wood, imported from the Philippines and Thailand, is cut, carved, inlaid with shell and other mosaics in Shantou style, richly finished, then sold. The two hundred workers employed there earn between 450 to 1,200 yuan (US$ 100-300) per month. Workers in government factories in other parts of China may make 100 yuan per month, so these workers are earning five times or more the salary of most government workers. This is in accordance with the policy of allowing a small proportion of individual economy to develop, absorbing foreign capital and introducing advanced technology.

According to the mayor, Guo Shuibin, the average income before the open policy in 1980 was 260 yuan a year and now is 1,300 yuan a year. With the prosperity brought by the open policy, the community can increase taxes on work units like the furniture factory and the free traders like the barber, and open new textile factories, increase the electricity supply, enlarge the elementary school and improve the local hospital.

The old and the new, the contrasts of China, leave one with more questions than answers, but the land, the rhythm of the rice paddies under the wisps of clouds, the slow water buffalo that pulls his feet from the clinging red earth, will draw one back again. Cui Heng is a foothold for further exploration of China.

P.G. Misty Sheehan

The Songpan Grassland: Scenic Variety

Day dawns on the grassland at Hongyuan (by Leong Ka Tai)

Songpan, the county seat, is situated in northwestern Sichuan Province close to Gansu and Qinghai Provinces, some 320 kilometres from the provincial capital of Chengdu. It is just a small town now, but in the past was an important defence outpost guarding the border areas along the upper reaches of the Minjiang River, once housing 10,000 families. The walls and towers have been built in accordance with the lie of the mountains. In fact, from a military strategic point of view, Songpan can be considered as the gateway to western Sichuan.

The Songpon Grassland in actuality spills over into the adjoining counties of Nanping, Zoigê and Hongyuan covering some 30,000 square kilometres of undulating terrain containing ravines, marshes and grassland. Positioned on the eastern edge of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, the Sungpan Grassland lies on average some 3,400 metres above sea level. The varied nature of the terrain combine with the flora indigenous to the grassland to form some astoundingly beautiful views, including snow-capped mountains, wet marshlands with lush high grasses, virgin forests with ancient towering trees as well as picturesque springs and waterfalls. Because of the rich variety of landscapes, in recent years the Songpan Grassland have been promoted as preferred tourist destinations. In fact, the Songpan Grassland is now conveniently accessible from Chendu by special routed coach and helicopter, and by train via an interchange at Jiangyou or Zhaohua.

Within the grasslands are one of the largest stretches of marshlands in China. Considering this together with the high altitude of the grassland, it comes as no surprise that the climate is cold and damp. Previously, within this vast marsh, there were numerous dangerously concealed morasses. If, through neglect, people or animals carelessly tread into such a hazardous spot, extricating themselves from this mess could prove difficult and, at times, well nigh impossible. Testimony to this peril can be found in the history of the Long March. During August of 1935, when the Red Army traversed the grassland, many lives were lost after unfortunate missteps by unsuspecting soldiers.

Contemporary tourists hiking through the marshlands now have much greater room for error. As part of the efforts to develop the grassland into a tourist attraction, large-scale drainage projects in the marshlands have been undertaken. Most of the formerly dangerous morasses in the marshlands have been transformed into gentle pasture. Livestock grazing in this newly formed pasture include sheep, yaks, cattle, horses, and *pien niu*, the offspring of a bovine bull and yak cow. *Pien niu* and yaks are indigenous to the Sichuan and Tibetan highlands. In addition to being good milkers, they can be employed as beasts of burden as well as riding; thus, they are appropriately enough, called "the boats of the grassland". The Tangke horse (also known as the Hequ horse) living in Zoigê County is a local breed very well adapted for life in the Songpan Grassland. The Tangke horse, the Ili horse of Xinjiang and the Mongolian horse represent the three most famous breeds of horses in China. Scattered throughout the pasturelands of this former marsh are several lakes and ponds connected by small rivers. An interesting species of scaleless fish about 30-40 centimetres in length inhabit these bodies of water. These fish are not afraid of humans, and, therefore, are easily baited and caught.

With pleasant temperatures, lush green grasses and the brilliance of the local flowers in full bloom, summer is the best season for visiting the Songpan Grassland. For the added convenience of tourists, the county seat of Hongyuan is situated in a place which formerly marked the deep hinterlands of the Songpan Grassland. In Hongyuan, a recently developed town, there are many modern buildings and a comparatively well laid out road system. Because of these amenities, Hongyuan is usually an important stopover for tour groups passing through the grassland. To further cater for the needs of tourists, the county administration has also set up a number of "grassland camping villas".

The Sacred Snow Tripod Vessel

To the east of the Songpan Grassland lie the Minshan Mountains. Rising to heights reaching from 4,000 to 4,500 metres above sea level, this range of mountains stretch for more than 500 kilometres. The highest peak, called Xuebaoding, which translates to Precious Snow Tripod Vessel, lies about twenty kilometres east of Songpan, and towers

5,588 metres above sea level. In fact, the local Tibetans regard Xuebaoding as a sacred place.

As one might expect from the striking appearance of Xuebaoding, it is an excellent site for mountaineering. During the transition from spring to summer, the scenery here is breathtakingly beautiful. Between the main Xuebaoding peak and the lesser Xuebaoding peaks one can find a glacial area perennially covered in ice and snow. With terrain that is difficult to climb, this area remains largely an unexplored territory.

Besides Xuebaoding, in the vicinity there are ten other mountains with summits rising above 5,000 metres. In the area surrounding Xuebaoding, at an altitude of about 4,000 metres, there are a number of glacial lakes ranging in size from several thousand square metres to pools only about ten metres square. The lake waters can be blue, green or even a dark green, but they are so clear as to reveal in detail the features at the bottom of the lake. Many rare species of plants and animals have adapted to life in these environs. The Himalayan goat antelope or goral, blue sheep, wild ox, snow frog, snow cock and snow lotus *(Saussurea)* are a few of the more interesting examples.

Huanglong Temple's Yellow Dragon

Situated 35 kilometres to the northeast of Songpan, Huanglonggou, or Yellow Dragon Ravine is a must place to visit if one tours the Songpan Grassland. Cliffs on both sides of the three-kilometre-long Huanglong Ravine contain vast forests of lush green cedar. Through the crystal clear waters of the ravine one can see that the rocks at the base of the ravine are milky yellow in colour. In fact, a bird's-eye view of the ravine gives the impression of a yellow dragon spiralling within secluded woods and in a deep valley, hence its name. When you arrive at the entrance to the ravine, you should wear rubber boots because you must wade into cold water at several places.

nside a Tibetan house at Hongyuan (by Leong Ka Tai)

An ancient temple, the Huanglong Temple, is located fifty-six kilometres from Songpan in the Huanglong Ravine. Traditional legend holds that when ancient hero Yu the Great subdued the Great Flood, he traversed the ravine. Later a temple was constructed to commemorate the yellow dragon that had performed meritorious service in both carrying Yu and assisting him in dredging the floods.

On the fifteenth day of the sixth lunar month, usually in July, the annual Huanglong Temple Fair is held to celebrate the day on which the yellow dragon became an Immortal. Large numbers of Tibetan, Hui and Han people come to pay homage to the yellow dragon as well as to take part in colourful performances peculiar to their nationalities. The performances include a singing contest, horse races and traditional folk dances. Concurrent with the Huanglong Temple Fair is the Arrow Planting Ceremony. As part of this ritual, there are horse races, ox races, ceremonial exorcism dances as well as Tibetan operas. Part of the Arrow Planting Ceremonies involves Tibetan herdsmen ascending mountains to honour a mountain deity.

January—the Sunniest Month in Songpan

Zoigê and Hongyuan, as mentioned earlier, have an average altitude of 3,400 metres above sea level. In winter, therefore, the weather is frigid with a mean January temperature between -10.3°C to -12.7°C and temperature extremes dipping to -34°C. And even during the hottest July, its mean temperature barely reaches over 10°C. The forty or so days between early July and mid-August are the summer season. Winter weather generally arrives in late October and continues for five and a half bitterly cold months which have a mean temperature below 0°C.

The rainy season on the Songpan Grassland is between June and September with a monthly average of between sixteen and twenty-five days having rainfall. From November to March, in stark contrast, it is very dry; thus, winters are bright and sunny. This creates a very interesting meteorological phenomenon — the month with the maximum duration of sunny weather ironically is the month with the shortest daylight period.

Natives on horseback in the Aba area (by Ge Jialin)

On the Songpan Grassland, the daily temperature during the dry winter varies dramatically as a result of the prevailing fine weather and high altitude. An example can be found by examining January temperatures in Hongyuan. After starting with an average minimum of -20.7°C in the morning, the average maximum temperature climbs to 1.8°C in the afternoon. The difference between average minimum and maximum temperatures in January is the largest such difference recorded from some 2,600 meteorological observatories in China.

The clothing styles and actual practice of dressing of the local Tibetan inhabitants are obviously related closely to the climate as well as to the changing conditions of the weather. The Tibetans wear fur gowns all year round to ward off the cold during the morning and evening; however, when feeling warm, they will uncover their right arms and tuck the free right sleeves of their garments into their belts. If they feel warm after this, then they remove the upper part of their gowns and tie the sleeves around the waist.

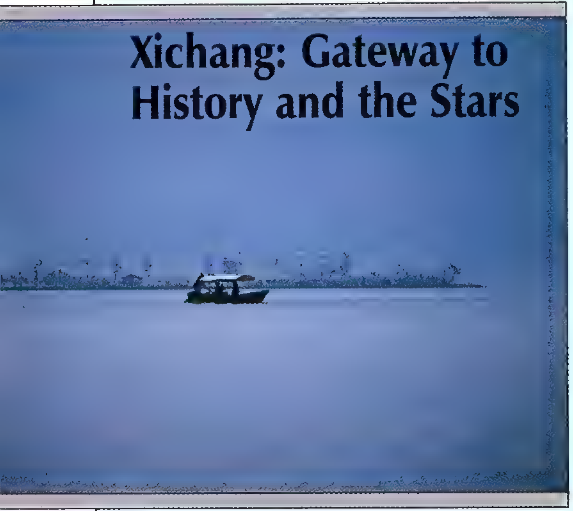
A spectacular feature of the Songpan Grassland's climate is the frequency of thundery weather. The annual average of days with thunder range from sixty to ninety. The thunder season is from May to September, with the hottest month of the year, July, also the most thundery.

Owing to the high elevation and the resulting thin air, the sun is especially bright and the sky is a deeper blue. At night, the stars in the sky also appear much brighter and shine more steadily. "Twinkle, twinkle little star..." would never make it as a nursery rhyme on the Songpan Grassland, but a clear moonless night makes one's mind wander when looking up to view the heavens in all their high altitude splendour.

Translated by Chen Jiaji

Xichang: Gateway to History and the Stars

Located in the centre of the Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan Province, Xichang is the capital of the Yi Autonomous Prefecture. Known as the Moon City, oddly enough, Xichang is also the base of China's space programme and China's satellite launching centre. Having a mild climate throughout the year, with an average annual temperature of 17°C and lush flora, it is no wonder that Xichang is a favourite tourist destination within Sichuan.



Qionghai Lake: a tranquil scene (by Wang Miao)

Settlements existing on the present site of Xichang have been continuously occupied for more than 2,000 years. Xichang has assumed an important role in the history and development of civilization of southwest China. Situated within a small plain in the valley of the Anning River, nestled in the Hengduan Mountains it is a hub of transportation in southwestern Sichuan. Both the Chendu-Kunming Railway and the Sichuan-Yunnan Highway pass through Xichang, and it is the terminus of the Chendu-Xichang air travel route connecting these two cities three times a week.

Historically, Xichang has served as a gateway. In the fourteenth century, Marco Polo became the first foreigner to visit the area of Liangshan. During the late Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), Christian missionaries from Britain, the United States and France established missions and churches to propagate their faith. More recently, the Red Army passed through Xichang during the legendary Long March.

Qionghai Lake and Mount Lushan

Located five kilometers southeast of Xichang, Qionghai Lake is the second largest fresh water lake in Sichuan. Shaped somewhat like a snail's body, set on a plateau 1,510 metres above sea level, it extends 11.5 kilometres from north to south and 5.5 kilometres from east to west. The colours of Qionghai Lake's picturesque scenery change according to the seasons, and the lake is also a sanctuary for migratory birds during winter. Adjacent to the lake Qionghai Park covers some 1.5 kilometres along the shore of the lake. The waters of the lake are teeming with edible delights such as fish, prawns, crabs and shellfish; thus, there are food stalls scattered close to the lake shore. The lake itself is a hubbub of activity, being crisscrosseed by literally hundreds of boats of varying shapes and sizes. Surrounding the lake are a number of inns and hotels offering accomodations for tourists.

One of the most scenic spots in Sichuan, Mount Lushan is west of the lake and is roughly a distance of three kilometres from Xichang. Mount Lushan's main peak rises some 2,317 metres above sea level and some 800 metres above the surface waters of Lake Qionghai. It takes an arduous two hours to walk up the ancient stone steps to the summit. Mount Lushan is lush the year round, even at the top of the mountain.

Mount Lushan houses some thirteen temples constructed at different times from the Tang Dynasty (618-907) on through to the Qing Dynasty. These temples are shrines to Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism. Among the most interesting of these ancient structures is Guangfu Temple, which shelters more than 100 stone stelae containing records of earthquakes that took place in Xichang, Mianning and Ningnan throughout recorded history. This temple also serves as a museum and is well known throughout China for being a repository of ancient seismic records. In fact, the temple's collection represents one of the four largest collections of stelae in China.

Museum of the Yi Minority People

Walking from the temples, crossing a stream, one reaches the Museum of the Liangshan Yi Slave Society. Actually, this museum is the first museum in China to have as its mission the preservation of a minority nationality culture, and was established in 1982. With more than 2,000 items in its collection it is divided into three sections. The first introduces the geography of the prefecture and the history of the Yi people. The second, which is the most significant one, depicts the organization of Yi society, including the caste system and genealogies, as well as marriage customs, festivals, art and traditional costumes. The third section features banners and weapons of Yi family clans, historical events and Yi utensils.

Old Glacier Park and Mount Luoji

Thirty-five kilometres south of the city of Xichang lies Mount Luoji or Hair Knot Mountain, an impressive natural edifice stretching some 100 kilometres from north to south and fifty kilometres from east to west. Mount Luoji's highest peak rises some 4,358 metres abvove sea level, and is known among the locals as "sky-scraping mountain". In appearance, it resembles nothing so much as a hair knot, hence, the name, Hair Knot Mountain.

Interspersed within the peaks are some seventy ponds and small lakes in a veritable riot of colours. The lakes are popularly known as "the colourful lakes". Tinted by the hues of the rocks and earth in the surrounding environment, pools of gold, green, blue and black are matched by the brilliance of more than fifty species of azaleas which dominate the virgin forest of the area. The millennial azaleas combine to provide a cornucopia of pigmentation, an embroidery of purplish yellow, burnt yellow, gold, pink and white covering the mountain slopes. The frequency with which one finds yellow blooms is most interesting as azaleas with yellow flowers are quite rare.

Caves, Springs and Waterfalls

It is easy to be dazzled by the beautiful scenery described above, but the seven hauntingly attractive caves beneath Hair Knot Mountain disproves the old adage that beauty is only skin deep. Xixi Cave, thirty kilometres from Xichang is the largest, burrowing ten kilometres into the ground. Xixi cave bristles with stalactites and stalagmites of various shapes and sizes.

Emanating from the eastern face of the mountain are several warm springs which, as they flow down the side of the mountain, cascade over cliffs to form waterfalls. The largest of these waterfalls drop from heights ranging from thirty to forty meters. The water temperature is over 30°C, and the water itself contains a white, oderless calcium compound.

The Moon City: Gateway to the Stars?

Approximately sixty kilometres outside of Xichang is the centre of China's space programme, the Satellite Launching Centre. Space age equipment of all kinds is evident throuhgout the Anning Valley. The 70-metre rocket launch pad, China's gateway to the stars, towers above its surroundings. Since May 1986, the centre has been open to both Chinese and foreign visitors alike.

Translated by Gu Weizhou

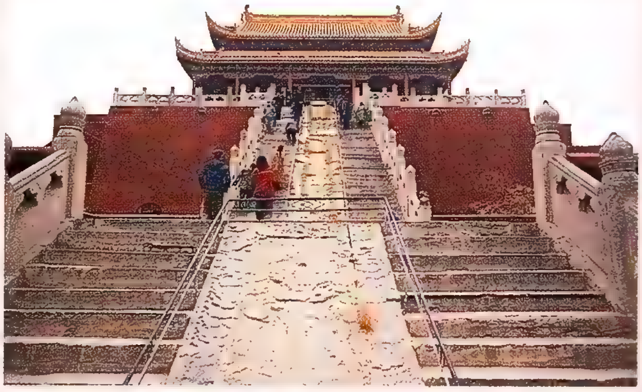


Photo by Ma Yiu Chun

Photo by Chan Yat Nin

Photo by Ma Yiu Chun

Clockwise from top left: Kaifeng's Song Dynasty Wax Museum; its largest group of wax figures showing the coronation of the first emperor of Song; and a corner of the Beijing Wax Museum displaying three legendary rulers, with Huang Di at the centre

China's Two Great Wax Museums

Song Dynasty Wax Museum

China's first specialized wax museum is the Song Dynasty Wax Museum in Kaifeng in Henan Province. The museum covers an area of 410 square metres and is housed in the Longting Hall and its side chambers which were once part of the Northern Song (960-1127) imperial palace. Using a total of sixty-eight wax figures grouped into historically important scenarios, the museum portrays the political, economic, cultural, diplomatic and scientific aspects of the reigns of the nine Northern Song emperors, a period lasting 166 years.

On display in Longting Hall is the museum's largest group of wax figures showing the coronation of Zhao Kuangyin (reign dates 960-976) who established the Song Dynasty and adopted the title of Taizu Emperor of Song. Over thirty wax figures are staged against a beautifully decorated backdrop with Zhao seated high up on his throne receiving toasts from his officials. Women are shown dancing, and the atmosphere is filled with gaiety and excitement. To ensure historical accuracy, each figure was given the looks and gestures which best portray the personality and style of each of the historical characters on display.

In the side chambers are wax figures which portray the scenario "Wang Anshi and his Reforms". Wang Anshi (1021-1086) was a politician, philosopher and writer of the Northern Song Dynasty. In 1058, he proposed reforms which emphasized the importance of individual flexibility and change for differing political situations. Through his proposed reforms, he also denounced the conservatives, making Wang one of the great reformers of the eleventh century. This group of wax figures includes Wang Anshi, Emperor Shenzong listening to Wang's proposals, and a conservative Confucian scholar, Sima Guang, who strongly opposed Wang's reforms.

The Beijing Wax Museum

Situated in Beijing's Ditan Park and housed in the renovated Zhaigong Palace, the Beijing Wax Museum is China's first to comprehensively represent important characters from the various dynasties. The museum has been open to the public since May 1, 1990.

On exhibit are more than fifty wax figures portraying characters ranging from the legendary Emperor Huang Di to twentieth century figures such as Dr. Sun Yat-sen. These figures are characterized according to their historic, scientific and artistic importance. Models and diagrams of the Great Wall and the Grand Canal are also on display.

According to the museum's artist and deputy chief, Zhang Shouxiang, wax material formerly used for reproducing Asian complexions was either too white or too translucent to look natural. After many experiments, the Beijing Wax Museum succeeded in inventing a new formula which would produce skin texture with the lustre and resiliance of real skin. With this special formula, the lines and pores of the skin can be reproduced, and after the proper dying process, even the protruding veins on the hands of old men can be successfully copied.

Translated by Chapman Lee

Average Climatic Conditions in Northern Sichuan Province

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Zoigê	Temperature (°C)	-10.5	-8.0	-2.6	2.0	5.4	8.0	10.7	10.0	6.4	1.3	-4.7	-9.4
	Rainfall (mm)	4.6	6.6	16.7	36.8	83.4	87.6	118.8	115.7	110.6	54.9	8.9	2.9
Aba	Temperature (°C)	-7.9	-4.8	0.1	4.7	8.2	10.4	12.5	11.7	9.0	4.2	-2.0	-7.0
	Rainfall (mm)	5.6	7.6	16.5	32.7	86.5	119.2	135.1	112.9	125.4	57.4	8.8	3.3
Hongyuan	Temperature (°C)	-10.3	-7.1	-2.4	2.2	5.9	8.3	10.9	10.0	7.0	2.1	-4.3	-8.9
	Rainfall (mm)	7.8	9.2	24.9	47.6	94.6	123.8	128.9	107.3	122.4	69.5	12.4	4.0
Songpan	Temperature (°C)	-4.3	-1.7	2.7	6.6	9.8	12.1	14.5	14.0	10.8	6.3	0.9	-3.4
	Rainfall (mm)	7.0	10.2	30.5	62.3	110.9	109.7	107.7	86.5	112.8	74.8	13.0	4.1

Bus Service from Guyuan in Ningxia Province

Route	Departure	Distance (km)	Main Station
Guyuan—Xi'an	05:30/06:30	400	Pingliang, Changwu, Xianyang
Guyuan—Baoji	06:50	290	Pingliang
Guyuan—Lanzhou	06:30	335	Xiji, Gangouyi
Guyuan—Tianshui	06:30	273	Longde, Zhuanglang, Qin'an
Guyuan—Xifeng	07:10	222	Caomiao, Sancha
Guyuan—Pingliang	06:03—16:00 (10 runs)	90	Heshangpu
Guyuan—Yinchuan	06:00—14:30 (8 runs)	341	Tongxin, Zhongning, Wuzhong
Guyuan—Wuzhong	06:50—12:30 (8 runs)	283	Tongxin, Zhongning
Guyuan—Zhongwei	06:30	233	Tongxin
Guyuan—Zhongning	08:00/15:00	191	Sanying, Tongxin
Guyuan—Tongxin	08:30—16:00 (5 runs)	122	Sanying, Qiying
Guyuan—Haiyuan	06:50/12:00	149	Zhengqibu
Guyuan—Haiyuan	07:30	159	Xiji
Guyuan—Longde	07:10/16:00	69	Heshangpu
Guyuan—Xiji	12:00/16:00	63	Piancheng
Guyuan—Pengyang	07:30/12:00/15:30	49	Guicheng
Guyuan—Jingyang	07:10/14:30	79	Huijiatai

Bus Service from Wudu in Gansu Province

Route	Departure	Distance (km)	Main Station
Wudu—Chengxian	07:20	150	Wangziguan
Wudu—Minxian	06:20	183	Dangchang
Wudu—Wenxian	06:20	146	Lingjiang
Wudu—Hanzhong	06:00	299	Kanxian, Lüeyang, Mianxian
Wudu—Lüeyang	06:40/07:00	180	Kangxian
Wudu—Zhaohua	06:20	332	Wenxian, Bikou
Wudu—Nanping	07:00	217	Wenxian
Wudu—Lanzhou	06:40	445	Dangchang, Minxian, Huichuan
Wudu—Beidao (Tianshui)	07:00	310	Chengxian, Tianshui
Wudu—Dangchang	08:00/12:00	110	—
Wudu—Liangdang	06:40	262	Chengxian
Wudu—Kangxian	07:00	110	—
Wudu—Têwo	06:40	233	Zhugqu
Wudu—Zhugqu	06:40	71	—
Wudu—Longxi	06:20/07:00	311	Dangchang, Minxian

Bus Service from Xichang/Barkam in Sichuan Province

Route	Departure	Distance (km)	Main Station
Xichang—Shimian	07:00/14:00	191	Lugu
Xichang—Chengdu	06:50	554	Ya'an
Xichang—Panzhihua	07:30	237	Dechang
Xichang—Jinyang	07:30	215	Zhaojue
Xichang—Muli	07:00	253	Yanyuan
Xichang—Huidong	08:00	246	Huili
Xichang—Yuexi	08:00	160	—
Xichang—Leibo	06:30	230	Zhaojue
Xichang—Ningnan	08:00	129	—
Barkam—Chengdu	07:00 (5 runs)	395	—
Barkam—Litang	07:30	254	—
Barkam—Jinchuan	07:30/14:30	91	—
Barkam—Xiaojin	07:00	143	—
Barkam—Aba	07:00	246	—
Barkam—Hongyuan	07:00	187	—
Barkam—Zoigê	07:00	330	—

Bus Service from Yan'an in Shaanxi Province

Route	Departure	Distance (km)	Main Station
Yan'an—Jiexiu	05:30	435	Suide, Fenyang
Yan'an—Linfen	06:30	379	Ganquan, Chafang, Yichuan
Yan'an—Xifeng	06:00	318	Chafang, Heshui
Yan'an—Yinchuan	05:30	485	Zhidan, Dingbian, Lingwu
Yan'an—Xi'an	05:30—12:00 (5 runs)	371	Ganquan, Luochuan, Tongchuan
Yan'an—Tongchuan	08:30/10:00/11:00	246	Guanquan, Luochuan
Yan'an—Huangling	14:00	171	Guanquan, Chafang, Luochuan
Yan'an—Luochuan	15:00	130	Ganquan, Chafang
Yan'an—Ganquan	17:00	40	Sanshilipu, Laoshan
Yan'an—Yichuan	11:00	160	Ganquan, Chafang
Yan'an—Yichuan	07:30	144	Nanniwan, Linzhen
Yan'an—Huanglong	07:30	229	Yichuan
Yan'an—Yanchuan	09:30/12:00	110	Ganguyi
Yan'an—Yanchang	07:30—17:00 (5 runs)	72	Yaodian
Yan'an—Ansai	08:30/14:00/16:00	40	Yangjialing
Yan'an—Zichang	07:00/14:00/15:00	92	Yaodian, Qinghuabian, Yongping
Yan'an—Zhidan	15:00	96	Xihekou
Yan'an—Wuqi	11:00	176	Zhidan
Yan'an—Yulin	05:30/06:30	312	Yongping, Mizhi
Yan'an—Mizhi	13:00	234	Yongping, Zichang, Qingjian, Suide
Yan'an—Jiaxian	06:30	300	Suide, Mizhi
Yan'an—Zizhou	07:00	226	Zichang, Qingjian, Suide
Yan'an—Qingjian	11:00	140	Yongping, Zichang
Yan'an—Suide	12:00/14:00/16:00	198	Yongping, Zichang, Qingjian
Yan'an—Jingbian	07:00	169	Ansai
Yan'an—Dingbian	08:30	277	Zhidan, Wuqi
Yan'an—Weinan	06:30	370	Tongchuan
Yan'an—Xianyang	07:00	359	Tongchuan, Sanyuan, Jingyang

China Tourist Programme "Visit China '92"

China plans an unprecedented tourist programme next year. The programme, named "Visit China '92", is to be organized jointly by the National Tourism Administration and the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC). A variety of tourist activities are planned including 14 special tours, visiting most of the renowned tourist destinations. Tours having a different approach are also to be offered, such as gourmet tours, Buddhist pilgrimages and honeymoon tours.

Martial Arts Festival in Hubei

The Martial Arts and Cultural Festival will commence on October 16 at Mount Wudang. The principal site is at the Yuxu Palace, with other festivities to be held at the Cultural Market, Trade Market, Tourist Products Market and Wudang Snack Market. This event presents an excellent opportunity to appreciate martial arts demonstration, folk performances, the Taoist music and dancing peculiar to Wudang.

Wuqiao — a Centre of Acrobatics

Wuqiao in Hebei Province is famous for its performing acrobatics throughout China. In fact, during 1987, an international acrobatics festival was successfully organized there. Once again, an International Acrobatics Festival is scheduled to be held during October 1991, this time at Shijiazhuang, provincial capital of Hebei. One hundred participants from over twenty countries are expected to take part.

Major Hotels Offer Special Packages

In Beijing, the Peninsula Group's **Palace Hotel** and the **Great Wall Sheration Hotel** are offering attractive packages to attract summer tourists. The Palace is enticing visitors with a tour called "The Beijing break" which includes a three night stay in a deluxe room, guide tours and other amenities. In addition to this package, the hotel is offering special summer rates starting from US$80 for deluxe rooms and US$132 for suites, available from June 5 until August 31, 1991. The Great Wall Sheraton, for its part, is offering a summer package at US$70 plus 15% service charge, which comes with a buffet American breakfast and a Taiji class to get your day started off right, from June 1 until September 15, 1991.

From May 1 to August 31, 1991, **Ramada Asia Hotel Beijing** offer a special rate of US$54.99, including one standard room accommodation and a complimentary round trip shuttle transfer between the hotel and the airport. Rates are subject to 15% service charges.

In Shanghai, the **Jin Jiang Tower** is tempting tourists with a summer special and room rates starting at US$75 for their superior rooms including complementary breakfast, effective from June 15 to August 31, 1991. All rates are subject to a 10% service charge.

In Guangzhou, the **Garden Hotel** is offering an unusual discount through its "Sure Win Programme". For each night spent in the hotel, a guest will receive a cash voucher good at all food and beverage outlets within the hotel and at the hotel's health club, beauty salon, and laundry shop. Guests can also use the vouchers for transportation, or they can simply collect a series of vouchers to redeem any subsequent visit. Unlike many other such voucher schemes, the Garden Hotel allows guests to take advantage of corporate rates or discounted walk-in rates at the same time.

Chishui Opens to Public

Chishui, a city boasting 350 mountain streams and over 1,000 waterfalls located in northwestern Guizhou, is now open to the public. The largest waterfall measures some 80 metres high and 76 metres across. The city is sparsely populated with nearly half of its area being covered by forests. The city has been listed as a tourist centre and offers some spectacular scenery.

Litter Carrying for Mount Emei

A mountain litter carrying service will soon be available to take elderly and disabled tourists up scenic Mount Emei. The service, to be offered by local farmers, will cover five separate paths on the mountain, located in southwestern Sichuan.

Chinese Traditional Medical Clinic Opens in Beijing

A group of about twenty renowned practitioners of Chinese traditional medicine have cooperated in setting up and managing this facility, located in the Beijing Hotel. Patients can receive specialized treatments using such traditional techniques as Qigong, acupressure and acupuncture, as well as diagnoses of their ailments. Courses in the instruction of traditional Chinese medicine are also being offered.

International Tourist Festival of Mount Huangshan

The inaugural 1991 International Tourist Festival of Mount Huangshan in Anhui Province will take place this October. A number of activities and special tours have been planned in conjunction with this festival, the highlights of which follow:

- Exhibit of Mount Huangshan tourist artware, souvenirs and food products
- Savour famous teas and specialities of Mount Huangshan
- Mount Huangshan Scenery Photo Competition
- Exhibit of Mount Huangshan Calligraphy and Painting
- Introduction to the Folklore and Rituals of Mount Huangshan
- Visit to the Birthplace of Tao Xingzhi (1891-1946), a renowned educator, on the centennial of his birth
- Tour of the Mount Huangshan area
- Visit to the Taoist Monastery and a chance to savour vegetarian delights
- Cruise upstream of the Xin'anjiang from Qiandao (Thousand Isles) Lake at Chun'an in Zhejiang Province to Mount Huangshan
- Visit to the old houses of Huangshan to learn about the customs of the people

Shaolin Martial Arts Festival

This international martial arts festival is set for September 10 through 15 at Zhengzhou, capital of Henan Province. The festival will combine sports with cultural, tourist and commercial activities. Participants from a number of countries are expected to take part.

One of China's sacred Buddhist shrines located near Zhengzhou, the Shaolin Temple is the inaugural site of the Shaolin martial arts.

Dunhuang Murals Spring-Cleaned

After fourteen years of research at the Dunhuang Research Institute in Gansu, scientists discovered a cleaning method which would not harm the murals in the world-famous Mogao Grottoes. The murals in Grotto No. 71, excavated in the early Tang dynasty (618-907), were particularly affected since this cave served as residential quarters for a long period and its walls had been blackened by smoke from cooking fires. After careful cleaning with a weak acid solution and distilled water, the murals featuring 1,000 Buddhas can now again be seen in detail. But apparently there are 29 other caves still suffering from smoke damage.

Shaanxi Historical Museum Opens

Situated in a southern suburb of Xi'an, the National Museum of Shaanxi History has been constructed in the style of the Tang Dynasty (618-907). Among the more interesting exhibits include a collection of genuine frescoes from Tang Dynasty tombs and cultural relics from the Zhaoling Tomb of Emperor Taizong (deceased in 649), who reigned during the Tang Dynasty.

Guiyang-Huanggoushu Expressway Opens

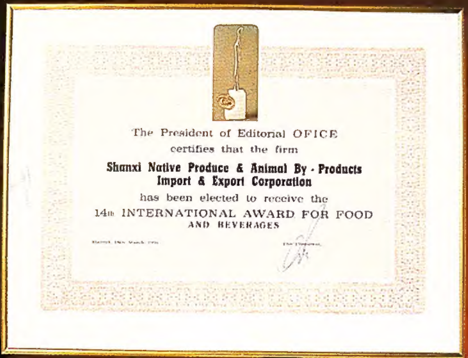
This is the first such tourist line to be constructed in mountainous southwest China. Huanggoushu is one of the most scenic spots in Guizhou Province. The expressway, 137 kilometres long, passes 122 bridges and goes through one tunnel.

NEXT ISSUE

TIANJIN SPECIAL

Next month's issue takes you to the third largest city in China, Tianjin, literally translated as "a ford that the Son of Heaven once passed". We explore the streets of this dynamic communications hub, as well as some of the more interesting structures, many of which were designed following various styles of European architecture, and the history behind these edifaces.

- **Tianjin After Dark**
- **The Lifestyle of Tianjin**
- **Western Architecture Historical Sites**
- **Huo Yuanjia — A Historical Gongfu Figure**
- **New Faces of Century-Old Astor Hotel**
- **Historical Sites on the Outskirts of Tianjin**



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	No.	
*	1	Beijing
	2	Shanghai
	3	Hangzhou
*	4	Nanjing
	5	Henan
*	6	Inner Mongolia
*	7	Guangdong
*	8	Yunnan
*	9	Jiuzhaigou, Sichuan
*	10	The Northeast
*	11	Xinjiang
*	12	Guilin
*	13	Mt. Huashan
*	14	Xishuangbanna & Mt. Huangshan
*	15	Beijing in Autumn
*	16	Sichuan
*	17	Chaozhou & Swatow
*	18	Hunan
*	19	Fujian
*	20	Zhejiang & Jiangsu
*	21	Tibet
*	22	Shanxi
*	23	The Grand Canal
*	24	Gansu
*	25	China's Minorities
*	26	Shandong
*	27	Hainan Island
*	28	Shaanxi
*	29	Anhui
	30	Guizhou
*	31	Hebei & Tianjin
*	32	China in Winter
*	33	Plateaux of Sichuan
*	34	Northern Guangdong
*	35	Qinghai
*	36	Western Hunan & Mt. Bodga
*	37	Loess Plateau
*	38	Jiangxi
	39	Southern Fujian
*	40	Inner Mongolia
*	41	Jilin
*	42	Xinjiang
*	43	Heilongjiang
*	44	Zhejiang & Jiangsu
*	45	Guangxi
	46	Ningxia
*	47	Yunnan
*	48	China-wide Special
	49	China-wide Special
	50	Hubei
	51	Shanghai
*	52	Beijing I
*	53	Beijing II
*	54	China's Minorities
*	55	Liaoning
*	56	Guangdong
	57	Hunan
	58	Jiangnan
	59	Sichuan
*	60	China-wide Special
*	61	Western Jiangsu
	62	Guizhou
	63	Northern Jiangsu
*	64	Xinjiang
*	65	Chengde
*	66	Northeastern Border
	67	China-wide Special
	68	Southern Gansu
*	69	Hainan Island
	70	Hangzhou
	71	Henan
	72	Xishuangbanna
	73	China-wide Special
	74	Sichuan-Tibet Special
	75	Huangguoshu Falls
	76	Shandong Special
	77	Beibu Gulf Special
*	78	Silk Road First Section Special
	79	China-wide Special
	80	Jiangxi Special
*	81	Xinjiang Travel Special
*	82	Xinjiang Travel Special
	83	Hulun Buir Grassland Special
	84	Northern Guangdong
	85	China-wide Special
	86	Beijing Special
	87	Fujian Special
*	88	Guangxi Special
	89	Northern Shaanxi
	90	Southern Anhui
	91	Eastern Zhejiang
	92	Gansu Corridor Special
	93	Southern Jiangsu
	94	Sichuan's Liangshan Mountains
	95	Shanxi Special
	96	Ningxia Special
*	97	Hainan Special
	98	Taiwan Special
	99	Western Hunan
	100	China-wide Special
	101	Grand Canal (I)
	102	Grand Canal (II)
	103	Western Hubei
	104	Guizhou Special
	105	Liaoning Special
	106	Qinghai Special
	107	Pearl River Delta
	108	Yunnan's Hengduan Range
	109	China-wide Special
	110	Sichuan Special
	111	Wumeng Mountains
	112	One Day in China
	113	New Destinations Special
	114	Heilongjiang Special
	115	Southeast Gansu
	116	Shanghai Special
	117	Henan Special
	118	Tibet Special
	119	Southwestern Silk Road (I)
	120	Southwestern Silk Road (II)
	121	Border Crossings Special
	122	Central/Southern Hebei
	123	Jilin Special
	124	Beijing Special
	125	Jiangxi Special
	126	Taiwan Straits Special
	127	China-wide Special
	128	Southern China
	129	Southwestern Shandong
	130	Qinghai's River Source
	131	Xi'an and Central Shaanxi
	132	Along the Route of the Long March (I)

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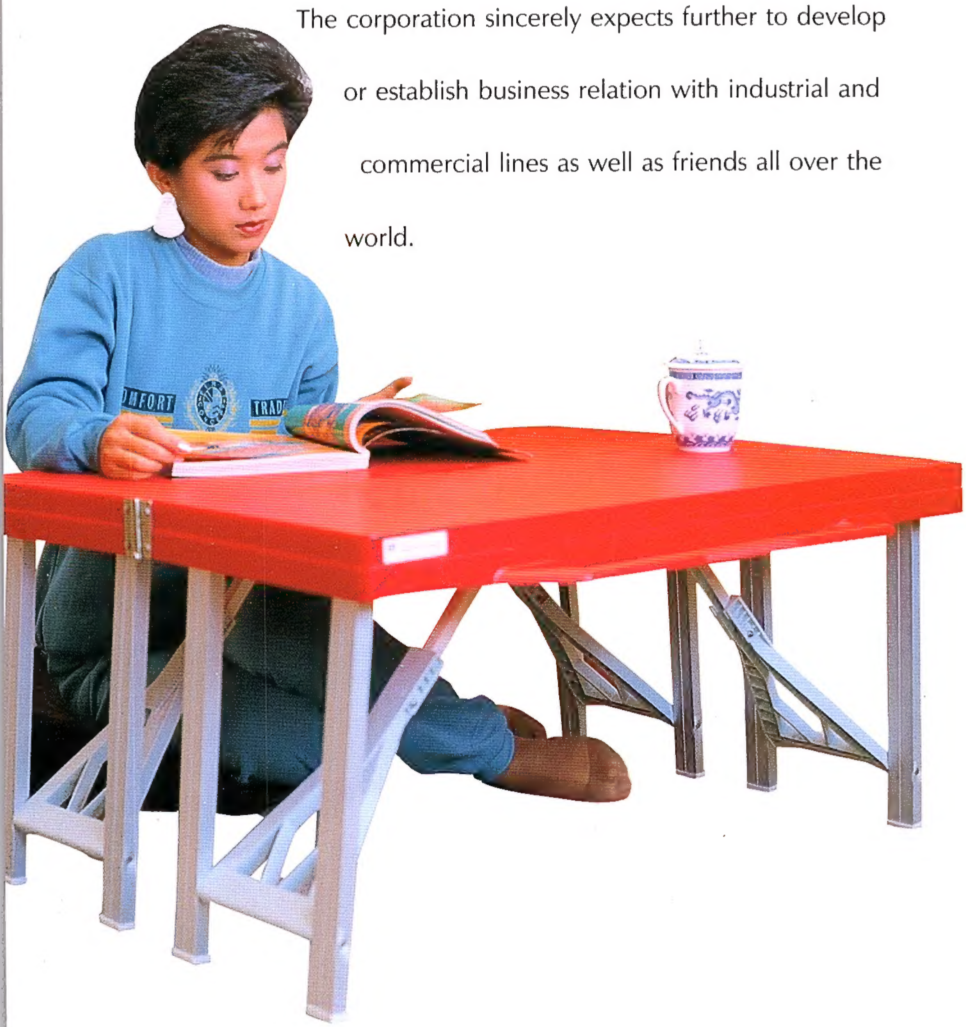

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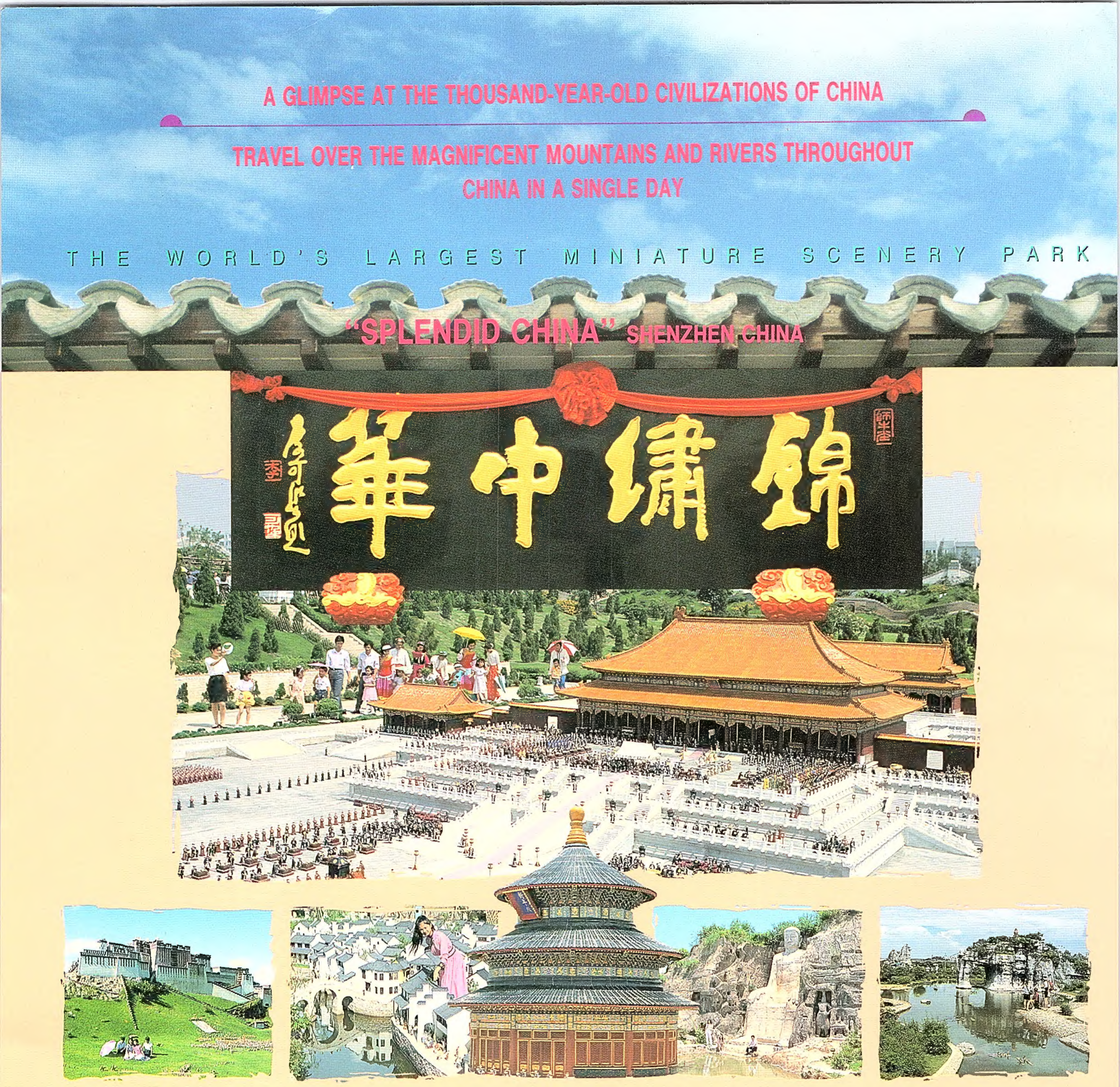
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